

Poll: Autonomy gaining support

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Support among Palestinians for Yasser Arafat's autonomy deal with Israel has increased since the Palestinian leader moved to the Gaza Strip earlier this month, according to a poll released Tuesday. Some 55 per cent of those questioned by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre, a leading local pollster, said they supported the deal granting autonomy to the Gaza Strip and Jericho area. About 34 per cent were opposed. In a similar poll by the same institute six months ago, only 45 per cent supported the deal and 40 per cent were opposed. Fifty-five per cent said Mr. Arafat's long-awaited return to Palestinian self-rule areas after 27 years in exile made them feel "more confident" about the peace process. More than 70 per cent had a "good" opinion of the Palestinian police which took over the self-rule areas from the Israeli army, compared to only 13 per cent who had a bad opinion. By comparison, however, only 45 per cent were impressed with the performance of Mr. Arafat's self-rule government.

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Arafat cuts police salaries

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Yasser Arafat has ordered a cut of almost half in Palestinian police salaries as of June, police sources said Tuesday. A low-ranking policeman who refused to be identified said his salary was to be reduced to \$260 a month from \$460, the sum he received for the month of May. He said the policeman had not yet been paid for June. Ghazi Jabali, chief of civilian police, denied the reduction was new, and said the Palestinian authority had initially decided to pay its police troops salaries of \$260 a month, but had added temporary benefits. "That was special for the month of May to help the new policemen," Mr. Ghazi said. But Palestinian officials earlier announced that the police salary would be about \$300 a month. And Major General Nasr Yusef, security chief for the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho, was called to the Palestinian headquarters in Tunis early July amid unconfirmed reports that Mr. Arafat found the police salaries too high. There are some 6,000 Palestinian police deployed in Gaza and the West Bank area of Jericho.

Jordan, Israel conclude talks on optimistic note

Kingdom upbeat with agreement to work out borders and water-sharing formula

Detailed and continuous negotiations to begin Aug. 8 near Dead Sea

Majali, Christopher and Peres meet today

From Narmeen Murad in Wadi Araba

Jordan and Israel on Tuesday ended two days of historic peace talks in the region and announced that detailed and continuous negotiations on border and water issues would begin on Aug. 8 at sites near the Dead Sea.

A joint statement read out by Jordan's chief negotiator Fayez Tarawneh at a press conference capping the negotiations listed a series of indicators of progress in talks on border, water and economic cooperation, but did not spell out any breakthrough.

Jordanian spokesman Marwan Muasher said Jordan was particularly satisfied with two major achievements — first an Israeli acknowledgement that Jordan does have a territorial claim and agreement to set up a sub-committee to prepare joint maps and documents on border documents, and, second, an Israeli acceptance that the Kingdom was entitled to a fair share of the waters of the Jordan and



Jordanian and Israeli delegates, headed by Fayez Al Tarawneh (front row second from left) of Jordan and Eliyahu Rubenstein of Israel (third from left), hold a press conference in Wadi Araba on Tuesday at the conclusion of two days of negotiations. Att left is Jordanian spokesman Marwan Muasher (photo by Yousef Al Allan)

without elaboration. Dr. Muasher would not elaborate but other sources agreed that the terminology of the statement on these two issues may have been "vague."

Eliyahu Rubenstein, head of the Israeli delegation, in comments after the joint statement was read, said that this statement of progress, which both sides initiated at the end of their two days of talks here, "reflects the wishes and concerns of both parties in a balanced way."

He said their negotiations aimed to "pave the way for the more important high-level meetings this week and next week."

The Jordanian and Israeli foreign ministers meet Wednesday in Jordan with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin are scheduled to meet in Washington on Monday.

The joint press conference was delayed by more than six hours as the two delegations wrangled inside an air-conditioned tent under the scorching sun in the desert.

Sources close to the Jordanian side said Israel initially flatly refused to acknowledge any Jordanian claim to territory saying that the borders of the two countries were never marked in history and rejecting British mandate maps of 1923 as the term of reference.

The sources said problems had also developed in discussions about sharing scarce

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan today hosts another landmark meeting in the quest for peace in the Middle East — a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Kingdom and Israel with the American Secretary of State.

The meeting comes under the umbrella of the Jordanian-American-Israeli commission set up in October and under whose auspices the Kingdom and Israel worked out the June 7 agreement that led to the launch of the historic bilateral peace negotiations held Monday and Tuesday in the southern desert.

The focus of the meeting is expected to be the presentation of an American proposal described as a comprehensive package of ideas and proposed projects for developing the Jordan Rift Valley.

Washington was entrusted with coming up with the proposal after Jordan and Israel tabled their own proposals and visions of developing the area in earlier meetings. The U.S. compromise is expected to draw from both Jordanian and Israeli proposals.

Among the proposed projects — discussed at various points during the course of the 33-month-old peace process launched in Madrid — are a road linking Aqaba with Eilat and Tabā on the Egyptian coast, a canal to bring Red Sea water to the Dead Sea to preserve the ecological features of the area and meet water and power demands, a "transnational" park near the borders, and an airport to serve both Aqaba and Eilat. It was not immediately known which of these projects would be given priority.

Jordan has said that serious discussions on economic cooperation with Israel could come only after the Jewish state satisfactorily addresses the Kingdom's territorial and water rights, a theme that was reaffirmed during the two days of talks that concluded Tuesday in Wadi Araba.

The meeting of the trilateral commission will be held at

Kaddoumi 'not satisfied' with Jordan-PLO coordination

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday held talks with senior Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Farouk Kaddoumi on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Palestinian relations amid mixed signals over whether Mr. Kaddoumi was here to revive coordination between Amman and the organisation.

The King's talks with Mr. Kaddoumi were expected to have covered the progress in the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations and the status of Jordan-PLO coordination which has suffered since the PLO signed its landmark autonomy accord with Israel in September 1993.

Mr. Kaddoumi, who arrived here Monday night, told reporters after a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali that he was "not satisfied" with the level of Jordan-PLO coordination and that hurdles blocking increased coordination should be removed.

There are "barriers that prevent us from reaching an advanced degree of coordination," he said without elaboration.

He also said he found "no reason" for any delay in finalising an accord on Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation which was prepared in May in implementation of a broader agreement signed in January. But there was no indication whether the PLO leadership had dropped its "reservations" on two or three key provisions in the accord.

Those "reservations" — mostly to do with the use of the Jordanian currency in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Kingdom's role in supervising commercial banks there — were said to be boding up the PLO's endorsement of the May accord.

Ahmad Qourie, minister of economy in the Palestine self-rule authority who helped draft the May accord, said last week that the agreement was under "serious consideration" and could be finalised soon.

A delegation representing the Palestine Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) arrived here Tuesday to "join" Mr. Kaddoumi in his talks here, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

However, a senior Jordanian official said no meeting of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian economic committee was planned, leaving the fate of the May accord still in the air.

"Mr. Kaddoumi is here for different reasons that have more to do with Palestinian affairs," said the official, who preferred anonymity. "It is not an official visit to Jordan."

No PLO official was immediately available for comment.

In his comments here on Tuesday, Mr. Kaddoumi, head of the political department of the PLO, did not spell out who was to be



A policeman tries to prevent people from approaching the site of an explosion in Buenos Aires on Monday which killed at least 28 people (AFP photo)

28 dead in Buenos Aires; Iran denies Israeli charge

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Rescue workers chipped away at mountains of rubble Tuesday hoping to find more survivors of the bomb blast at a Jewish charity here that killed at least 28 people and injured another 146.

The seven-storey Jewish Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires' busy Once district collapsed in Monday's explosion that destroyed neighbouring buildings and was heard as far as 15 kilometres away, police said.

The bombers "chose Argentina as a target because of its support for a peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians," President Carlos Menem said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast, which came as a deadly reminder of the bomb attack on the Israeli embassy here March 17, 1992, that killed 30 people and injured more than 200.

Mr. Menem said Tuesday three people were under arrest in the case, and voiced optimism about the investigation of what he said was a crime committed by foreign nationals, aided by people inside Argentina.

One of those arrested was identified by police as Iraqi national Adnan Mohammad Yousif, 31, who fought for his country in the Gulf war. He was held while trying to cross the border to Brazil with an expired Brazilian passport.

Also detained was Moroccan national Al Kabir Palkan, 33, Mr. Menem said. He was arrested in the neighbourhood of the bombed building.

Police sources said an Iranian man and a German woman were detained Monday at the airport in Buenos Aires. The woman was released hours later.

Israel said militants tied to Iran were apparently behind the bomb attack.

President Menem promised that "everything humanly possible" was being done to catch the people responsible as a team of Israeli Mossad agents arrived in Buenos Aires to help investigate the bombing.

Israel also sent a rescue team, police bomb experts and army specialists.

"Argentine soil has already soaked up the blood of innocent people, among them Israelis in the horrible attack on our embassy building there only 28 months ago," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told his parliament.

"At the time, the trail led to Iran and also now preliminary information in our hands points to the involvement of hostile Middle Eastern elements who do not shy from using any measure to hurt those who seek peace," Mr. Peres said.

In an interview with army radio, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also referred to the 1992 embassy bombing.

"If we judge by the past, and I think we can do that, it is clear where the threads are leading," Mr. Rabin said.

"Moreover, in our assessment, there was concern that after the blows Hizbollah has sustained from Israeli forces, they and their patrons were liable to respond somewhere in the world through some act," he said.

Pro-Iranian Hizbollah vowed to strike in Israel and elsewhere after 26 of its guerrillas were killed in an Israeli air raid in eastern Lebanon on June 2.

Iran denied any involvement in the bombing in Argentina. Tehran Radio said on Tuesday Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi "condemned terrorist acts against innocent people from any religion and nationality."

Tehran Radio did not comment on the arrest of the Iranian at Buenos Aires airport after the government sealed Argentina's borders following the blast.

Mr. Mohammadi told Tehran Radio "this act resembles the attack carried out by Israeli secret services on a Beirut church." He was referring to a bomb attack in February on the Zouk Mikail church in northern Beirut which killed 11 people.

The Mossad is no stranger

Christopher holds 'useful' talks with Assad in Damascus

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he had "useful" talks here on Tuesday with President Hafez Al Assad on ways to break the deadlock in Syria's peace negotiations with Israel.

But Mr. Christopher said after more than two hours of discussions with the Syrian leader that "we're still in the process of difficult negotiations. The issues are complicated and intertwined."

They were to meet again later after Mr. Assad considered points made by Mr. Christopher, who flew to Damascus from Israel after saying there was new hope for peace.

"I had useful discussions with President Assad" to review the situation since his last peace shuttle between Israel and Syria in May, the secretary told foreign correspondents.

Mr. Christopher said he was not really bringing new ideas. "There are different ways to approach old ideas."

The secretary said Washington always encouraged all parties to engage in high-level direct talks when asked if he had urged Mr. Assad to follow Jordan's example.

Syria's official press was critical as Jordan met Israel on their ceasefire line ahead of next Monday's first public talks between King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"I did not discern that the Jordan events made any difference for him," Mr. Christopher said. The Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace talks "was not the central aspect of our conversation."

A senior U.S. official requesting anonymity said "the issue is not direct contact. The issue is the level of contact."

Mr. Christopher reiterated that Israel and Syria were both "very serious" about making progress in their talks which have been stalled since February and made little headway since the Madrid conference in October 1991.

"As I've said in May the discussions entered a new and substantive stage," he said.

On his last missions here in April and May, the secretary carried to Damascus proposals from Israel for a phased withdrawal from the Golan Heights which Syria turned down.

Damascus wants a total Israeli pullout from the Golan and South Lebanon while Israel is asking for a Syrian commitment to total peace first.

After talks on Monday with Mr. Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the secretary said: "There is new hope and new opportunities here." Mr. Rabin was cautious saying there were still wide differences.

Mr. Christopher described the issues still unsettled as "very complex and intertwined."

Mr. Christopher told reporters: "Are we going to have difficult times? Of course. Will there be areas where there will be sharp controversy? Of course. And one of those areas where clearly there are very difficult and serious negotiations is the Syrian track."

A senior Israeli diplomat said Monday night a simple swap of land-for-peace was a Syrian invention. From Israel's standpoint, he said, Mr. Assad must spell out his peace terms, negotiate security arrangements along the border and agree to normal trade and diplomatic ties.

In May, when Mr. Christopher was last in the region, Mr. Assad conveyed through him the beginning of an outline of peace terms. But Israeli and U.S. officials said that process has stopped.

Mr. Christopher went to see Mr. Assad immediately on his arrival from Israel and planned to stay overnight. He would come back Friday, depending on whether his shuttle is productive, U.S. officials said.

In the interim, Mr. Christopher will meet Wednesday in Amman with King Hussein and then near the Dead Sea with Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

He will report on his talks with Mr. Assad to Mr. Rabin in Tel Aviv on Thursday.

Commentaries in Tuesday's Syria Times, a government-aligned newspaper, accused Israel of stalling and placing obstacles in the path to peace. Israel refuses to discuss the question of withdrawal, according to a

'Education' turns snag in self-rule talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Seeking to define "education" as used in the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement bogged down negotiators Tuesday as they wrangled over exchanging control of Palestinian schools from Israeli to Arab.

PLO negotiators called in a legal adviser from Jerusalem to help deal with the issue.

"It seems the Israelis don't really want a Palestinian authority on education," adviser Jonathan Kurtah said. "They want to give us the book and say, 'do this'."

Mr. Kurtah, a prominent Palestinian lawyer, banded the Palestinians' final review of the accord on Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and the Jericho area of the West Bank before it was signed May 4.

Education is among the first subjects before PLO and Israeli negotiators sitting in Cairo to resolve questions left open in this accord. The negotiations are over "early empowerment." Israel's surrender to Palestinians of control over aspects of life in the newly autonomous areas.

Hamas claims killing of Israeli soldier

RAFAH (Agencies) — Hardline Palestinians, retaliating for the deaths of two Palestinians in violent protests at a Gaza checkpoint, killed an Israeli soldier in an ambush on Tuesday near the border with Egypt.

"Following the terrible massacre committed by (Israeli) Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's soldiers against our people, (our) Izzeddin Al Qassam brigades directed a vengeful blow," the Hamas group said in a statement.

It was the first such attack carried out by Hamas since Palestinian self-rule began in Gaza and Jericho in May.

The Israeli military said an officer was shot in the ambush and died in hospital. Under a peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Israeli soldiers patrol the border between Gaza and Egypt.

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2 Malaysian soldiers killed in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali gunmen killed two U.N. peacekeepers and captured 11 in a Mogadishu ambush but released their captives within hours, the U.N. said on Tuesday.

It was the worst attack on U.N. peacekeepers in Somalia in two months. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said it underlined the need for a critical review of U.N. operations.

The U.N. military spokesman, Major Rick McDonald, said two Malaysian U.N. peacekeepers were killed when gunmen ambushed a three-vehicle patrol near the "green line" battle zone dividing the capital on Monday.

"There was a two-way firefight as the UNOSOM personnel tried to extricate themselves from the ambush. But eventually all 11 members of the patrol were captured," Mr. McDonald told Reuters.

The U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) patrol consisted of nine Malaysian soldiers, three Italians and one New Zealander.

"In addition to the two dead, three Malaysians were wounded — one critically — and two Italians were wounded. The sixth, a New Zealander, has a minor flesh wound caused either by a bullet splinter or gravel," he added.

"The Somali who took them made it plain from the start that they weren't interested in keeping them prisoner. They wanted to sort out how to hand them back and it took some hours to do it."

"They were eventually released at a U.N. stronghold at the K-4 junction. They were taken there in a minivan escorted by a bunch of technicals (armed trucks) and whoever was holding them went and talked to the guards."

"Half an hour later the two bodies and the 11 prisoners were released and taken to the U.N. compound," McDonald added.

The ambush took place at the scene of repeated clashes in the past month between militiamen of General Mohammad Farah Aidede and Somali National Alliance and Hawadle clan gunmen.

Mr. McDonald said the bodies of the two Malaysians would be repatriated as soon as possible, possibly on Tuesday, and he believed there would be a U.N. investigation of the ambush.

Before news of the peacekeepers' release in Mogadishu, Dr. Ghali condemned what he called the "wanton attack."

"It is unpardonable that the attackers should turn against those who have come to help them... this incident underscores the degradation of the security situation on the ground and the need for a critical review of the United Nations operations in Somalia," he said in a statement.

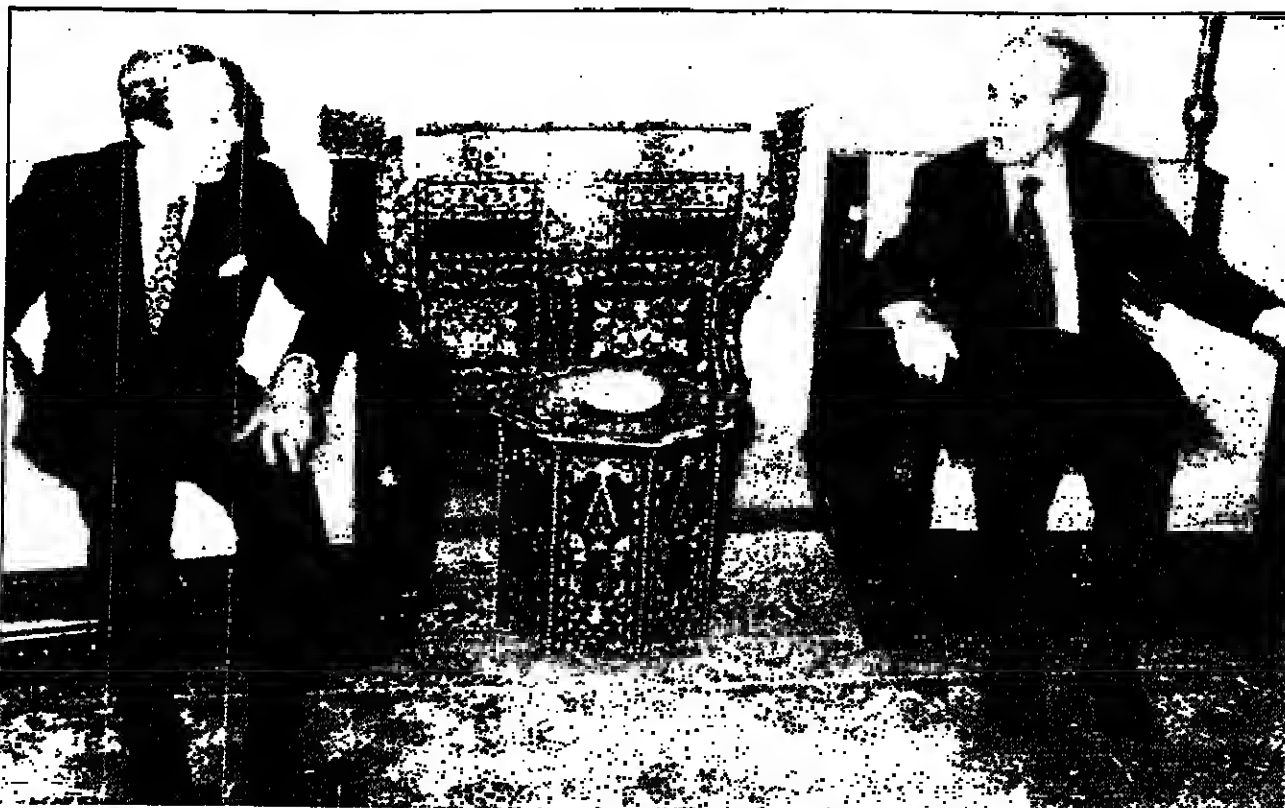
The U.N. Security Council, bruised by its failure to bring peace to Somalia despite brokering peace talks, is due to decide at the end of September whether to extend its mandate there.

U.N. officials warn continued violence will prompt the 19,000-strong U.N. force to pull out and the international community, overburdened with crises elsewhere, to turn its back on Somalia.

Officials said both General Aidede and rival, Ali Mahdi Muhammad, said they would investigate Monday's incident, the worst since five Nepalese soldiers were killed in Mogadishu on May 16.

A clan-based feud between Aidede and Ali Mahdi supporters killed about 30,000 people after the ouster of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in 1991. The war led to famine which killed 10 times that number of Somalis.

All 15 main Somali clans signed a peace agreement in March calling for a reconciliation conference to name a new government in May. But chiefs later fell out over when and where to meet.



DAMASCUS TALKS: Syrian President Hafez Al Assad (right) on Tuesday holds talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (see page one) (AFP photo)

Workers see Israeli conspiracy in violence

KHAN YOUNIS (AFP) — Palestinians shut out of Israel share more than just problems arising from unemployment, they also see an Israeli "conspiracy" to create a rift within the newly-autonomous Palestinian areas.

This feeling grew sharply after workers clashed Sunday with the Israeli army at the Erez crossing point. Two Palestinians were killed and 75 Palestinians and 24 Israelis wounded, and Israel declared Gaza sealed off until further notice.

Some 20,000 Gaza residents holding work permits are affected, a considerable figure in a region that suffers a 50 per cent unemployment rate.

In areas as far apart as Gaza City and the squalid Khan Younis refugee camp, Palestinians are repeating the same charges: Israel is trying to make our lives miserable enough to push us against our own leadership.

"Israel is using the unemployment problem against

the Palestinian authority and against the PLO, to prevent the success of autonomy," said Mohammad Muhareb, 40, a house painter unable to renew his permit to work in Israel.

Mr. Muhareb now works on a temporary basis at a clinic run by the U.N. Refugee Relief and Works Agency, earning 30 shekels a day instead of the 100 he would get from an Israeli employer.

The difficulties Palestinian workers face could lead to "the risk of a split," Mr. Muhareb said, quickly adding, "but it's very slight, we won't let it happen."

Indeed, following the violence, an angry crowd of about 3,000 at Gaza's main hospital shouted slogans against peace with Israel, and some even jeered when Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat's name was mentioned.

But when Mr. Arafat later visited the hospital, the slightly smaller gathering

cheered him in. "If it gets very bad, we will turn against Israel, never against our own people," said Jihad Abu Obeida, 23.

Mr. Abu Obeida was speaking at this camp which houses almost 100,000 refugees from Beersheba whose families came to Egyptian-controlled Gaza after the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

Gaza's registered refugees form two-thirds the total population, and the vast majority of the area's nearly 500,000 unemployed. Original Gaza families are mostly land-owners or established tradesmen.

Khan Younis with simple stone houses where families live ten to a room and garbage-strewn dust tracks, reflects the desperation of its inhabitants.

Donkey-drawn carts rumble along to the beach, carrying women and children on what is the area's major means of transportation.

On an official level, some Palestinians voiced the same opinion as the workers.

"I support what the workers say," said Walid Zakkat, a former negotiator with Israel.

"Clearly, the Israeli government, or some extreme right-wingers are trying to put pressure on the Palestinian authority," to ruin the autonomy agreement, he said.

But others qualified the problem differently. "I don't see this as a conspiracy by Israel," Frieih Abu Meddine, Palestinian minister of justice, said.

"There are obstacles but it's not a conspiracy. It's not a political matter, it's purely economy."

"It takes the workers up to six hours to get across," Mr. Abu Meddine said, by which time prospective Israeli employers on the other side will have given up and gone home.

Sunni opposition group claims Mashhad blast

NICOSIA (AP) — A little-known Iranian opposition group has claimed responsibility for a mosque bombing in northeastern Iran that killed 26 people, an Arabic-language weekly reported in issues available in Cyprus Tuesday.

Abu Bakr Al Khorasani, a spokesman for the Iranian Islamic Movement, said his group would escalate attacks nationwide unless the Shiite Muslim Tehran government granted more rights to Iran's Sunni Muslim minority.

He told Al Wasat that his group wanted the Iranian government to grant "equality" to Sunnis and Shites, halt "insults" against the Sunni sect, rebuild the demolished mosque, try those responsible for its destruction, and allow Sunnis to build mosques elsewhere in Iran, including the holy city of Qom, presently the seat of the Shiite sect.

Mr. Khorasani also alleged that Iran was holding a number of Sunni scholars and students in prison and demanded their release.

The majority of Muslims around the world abide by the faith's Sunni sect, but about 90 per cent of Iran's 60 million people are Shites. About five per cent to eight per cent of the population is believed to be Sunni.

demolished. Mashhad is predominantly Shiite Muslim and considered one of the holiest cities of the sect.

Iran has blamed the shrine bombing on the Iraq-based Mujahedeen-e-Khalq opposition group, which has denied the charge.

Mr. Khorasani's group has also claimed responsibility for an April 19 explosion in one of Tehran's busiest streets that injured 13 people. The group had not been heard of before that incident.

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Anniversary brings painful memories for Greek-Cypriot refugees in own country

NICOSIA (AFO) — Constantinou, Titina, Christos and 200,000 of their fellow Greek-Cypriots all have one thing in common — they are all "refugees" in their own country.

The destinies of the ultra-wealthy businessman, the mother pursuing Turkey through the courts and the young man who dreams of opening his own restaurant are tied together by just one date: July 20, 1974.

On that day, Turkish paratroopers landed in northern Cyprus following a coup against the Cypriot president. Archbishop Makarios, orchestrated by the military junta in power in Greece.

Turkey said it was a guarantee of the East Mediterranean island's independence, along with Greece and Britain, and was acting to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority.

After several weeks of violent fighting Cyprus was split into two.

The Turkish army occupied the northern third, forcing some 200,000 Greek-Cypriots living there to abandon their homes and seek

refuge in the south. An exodus of 50,000 Turkish Cypriots living in the south moved in the opposite direction.

Since then the two communities have lived divided by a 180-kilometre "green line," patrolled by troops from the United Nations.

Constantinou Lordos left behind him one of the biggest hotels in Famagusta, the main port on the east coast.

The hotel is still standing abandoned 20 years later, in the heart of what was Cyprus's tourist hotspot of the 1970s.

But Mr. Constantinou, in his 50s, has moved on. He used government aid for the "refugees" to "redeem" his business ventures.

Now he manages several hotels on the island's southern coast, in the new tourist centres from Ayia Napa to Paphos via Larnaca and Limassol, and counts as one of the Cypriot multi-millionaires.

His attachment to Famagusta owes more to good business sense than to does sentiment, but 44-year-old Titina Loizidou has never

given up her dream of going back to her home in Kyrenia on the northern coast.

Five years ago Titina launched a legal fight against Turkey in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Her charge against Ankara is that Turkish troops are infringing her rights by not allowing her to return "home" to Kyrenia, just 20 kilometres north of Nicosia where she lives now.

Titina, member of a militant women's "refugee" group "Women Walk Home," knows that the process of justice is slow. But her hopes were raised in June when the court ruled that her case was admissible.

She hopes for a ruling before the end of the year, but knows her return to Kyrenia is still little more than a dream.

The dream is more bitter for Christos Kyriacou, who left the Kyrenia region as a child of five.

When a Turkish plane dropped paratroopers over the family's village of Skiloura, his policeman father just had time to pack him, his brother and his seven-

months-pregnant mother on to a coach before he went off to fight.

The family had nothing but the clothes they stood up in. Christos' memories — those of a young child who did not understand why adults had to fight wars — are still painful for him.

Though he works in one of the numerous off-shore companies attracted to Cyprus by its lack of financial structures, an enviable position for many of his compatriots, he still dreams of returning "home."

He would like to open a restaurant next to the beach there, though he knows it is practically impossible.

Like Christos, tens of thousands of young Greek-Cypriots only have a very distant memory of a time when the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities lived side by side. Those younger than 20 have no memory of it at all.

Yet it will be young people like them who make up the largest part of the demonstrators commemorating the 20th anniversary of the "occupation" of their island.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian fighter crashes; pilot killed

ISMAILIA (R) — An F-16 fighter of the Egyptian air force crashed near the Suez Canal on Monday, killing the pilot, security sources said on Tuesday. The pilot, on a flight between two nearby airfields, told ground control he had a technical fault and he died minutes later while trying to eject, they said. Earlier this year an F-16 crashed into an abandoned house near one of the same airfields.

U.S. general visits Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

KUWAIT (R) — U.S. General Joseph Hoar held talks with Kuwaiti officials including Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Sabah on Tuesday. Sen. Hoar is head of the Florida-based U.S. Central Command and responsible for U.S. armed forces operations in the Middle East. He also met Kuwaiti armed forces Chief of Staff General Ali Momen, a Defence Ministry spokesman said. Gen. Hoar arrived on Monday after a brief visit to Saudi Arabia. He declined to give details of his discussions.

Guilty plea in scheme to divert Israeli aid

CINCINNATI (AFP) — A Former General Electric executive pleaded guilty Monday to fraud and related charges in connection with a scheme to divert millions of dollars in U.S. aid destined for Israel. Herbert Steindler, a former GE international sales manager, also agreed to forfeit \$1.7 million, said assistant federal prosecutor Edmund Sargus. Authorities said Mr. Steindler was part of a plot to divert some \$11 million in U.S. military aid for Israel. Under a plea agreement, prosecutors will recommend the 55-year-old Steindler receive seven years in prison for fraud, money laundering, conspiracy and mail fraud. Rami Dotan, an Israeli air force general indicted with Mr. Steindler, was convicted in Israel on related charges and sentenced to 13 years in prison. General Electric cooperated with the probe and paid \$9 million in penalties and other damages.

Iran threatens to sue German

NICOSIA (AP) — Tehran on Monday threatened to sue a German engineer who said he was beaten during five years imprisonment in Iran to make him confess to being a spy. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the Iranian judiciary issued a statement "refuting the contradictory remarks by" the former prisoner, Helmut Szimkus. IRNA said that Szimkus, "apparently influenced by the Zionists, has launched some baseless allegations against Iran." IRNA quoted the statement as saying that IRNA could sue Mr. Szimkus internationally, but did not say how or where. Mr. Szimkus, 59, was released from prison July 1 after serving a five-year sentence on charges he had passed military information to Iraq during its 1980-88 war with Iran. He was sentenced to death, but later pardoned. Mr. Szimkus, who returned home in good health, told Germany's Stern TV that after he was jailed in Tehran's notorious Evin prison he was beaten "numerous times" until he confessed to espionage. Mr. Szimkus denied Iranian allegations that he was picked up at the Iran-Iraq border. He said he was arrested in 1989 at Tehran airport after he had checked in for a flight and had passed through immigration.

Charged with murder of Coptic Christians

CAIRO (AFP) — The state prosecutor on Monday charged 11 suspected militants in southern Egypt with the murders of two Coptic Christians and three policemen, security sources said. Five of the defendants are in police custody, but six are on the run. All the shootings in which nine other people were also wounded took place in 1992 in Assiut, a province's town of Dairut, about 300 kilometres south of Cairo. The defendants are also being charged with trying to kill Dairut's police chief, Major-General Mohammad Lahib Hassan, in a gun attack. Other charges include membership in militant groups, and the illegal possession of weapons.

Rights group singles out Palestinians' plight

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab Organisation for Human Rights expressed concern Monday over abuses in the Arab World, singling out the Palestinian situation. The organisation said it was concerned "over the abuse of the right to life in more than one-third of the Arab World, in addition to Palestine." It criticised the Palestinian autonomy deal for the Gaza Strip and Jericho, signed here on May 4, saying the accord limited the Palestinians' right to self-determination and rule. The organisation said it "deeply regrets Israel's continuing stubbornness concerning the rights of the Palestinian people, in particular their right to self-determination," the report said. Israel insists on "giving the Palestinians narrow limitations in self-rule geographically and politically," it added. The report also condemned Israeli settlers for attacks against Palestinians, which "abuse the Palestinians' right to freedom and security." The report criticised the "deteriorating situation" of Israeli prisons and detention camps, and the "continuing detention of Palestinians in great numbers."

Briton flogged in Qatar complains of injustice

LONDON (R) — A Briton flogged in the Gulf state of Qatar for illegally selling alcohol was quoted on Tuesday as saying he was the victim of injustice. The Guardian newspaper quoted electronics technician Gavin Sherrard-Smith, 30, as saying he had been the victim of a "sting" operation by police and had not been allowed a lawyer to help defend him. "I was outraged by a feeling of complete injustice," Mr. Sherrard-Smith, who denies the charges, was quoted as saying.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 ... Tao-Tao
17:30 ... N.B.A. sport
18:30 ... News in French
18:45 ... Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:00 ... News in Hebrew
19:15 ... Jordanese case
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Coach
21:30 ... The World Of The 30's
22:00 ... News in English

PRAYER TIMES

04:07 ... Fair
05:20 ... (Sunrise) Doha
06:42 ... Dhuhr
16:22 ... 'Asr
19:36 ... Maghreb
21:18 ... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel: 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
637735
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
627430.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771251.
Assam International Church Tel.
652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel:
624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Church
Congregation Tel: 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in
Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology.

It will be fine with clouds appearing
at low altitudes and winds
northwesterly moderate. In Agaba,
winds will be northerly moderate
and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 19/30
Aqaba 25/39
Deserts 16/34
Jordan Valley 24/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29 Aqaba 37, Humidity
readings: Amman 29 per cent,
Aqaba 28 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENAER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghali Zaidieh 736011
Dr. Khalid Asfour 666873
Dr. Bassim Qaddumi 648633
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih 756888
Fires pharmacy 641912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeis pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu (-)
Al Quds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad 985550
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 63041
Rescue 63041
Civ Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 845485
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 603800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661102
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority
Electric Power 815615

FOR THE TRAVELLER

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alla Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Aksh Maternity, J. Amn 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664114
Shmeisani Hospital 649151
University Hospital 845485
Al-Muasher Hospital 667221/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ash, Abdali 666146
Al-Ash, Al-Muasher 771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, B.Maria 891611/15
Queen Alla Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983523
Zarqa National Hospital (09)983523
Don Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990
Princess Basma Hospital (02)725553
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
The Al Nufes Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen Alla
International Airport Tel. (08)53200-
5, where it should always be ver-
ified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
09:30 ... Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 ... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:25 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15 ... London (RJ)
17:25 ... Istanbul (RJ)
18:25 ... Paris (RJ)
19:00 ... Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:25 ... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 ... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:30 ... Rome (RJ)
06:40 ... Beirut (RJ)
01:28 ... Cairo (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
11:10 ... Damascus (AZ)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus ... 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus ... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apples 600/600
Apricots 800/700
Banana 140/80
Cabbage 200/180
Carrot 1300/800
Cherry 1200/700
Cauliflower 280/200
Cucumbers (large) 90/50
Cucumbers (small) 180/120
Eggplant 160/100
Fig 480/380
Garlic 450/350
Lemon 630/580
Marrow (large) 90/50
Marrow (small) 220/150
Mushrooms 110/60
Okra 800/600
Orange 300/400
Onion (dry) 200/140
Sweet Melon 350/300
Pepper (hot) 200/180
Pepper (sweet) 260/180
Peaches 450/300
Peanuts 750/500
Tomato 100/50
String beans 320/240
Watermelon 110/60

King Abdullah remembered

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanians today remember the late King Abdullah, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and grandfather of His Majesty King Hussein on the 43rd anniversary of his death in Jerusalem.

King Abdullah was assassinated while attending Friday prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque in 1951. He is remembered for his national stand and for laying the foundation of pan-Arab unity by uniting the West and East banks of Jordan and his commitment to defending the holy shrines of Jerusalem.

The late King played a major role in rallying pan-Arab ranks in the face of Zionist expansion in Palestine and set the cornerstone for a modern democratic Kingdom by creating the first Legislative Council in Transjordan in 1929.

The King's efforts were instrumental in helping the Arabs to fend off dangers posed to Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq by the Zionist and Western alliance during the earlier part of this century.

The late King also played a key role in the liberation movements that began in the early 20th century and in the Arab political arena, taking part in the creation of the Arab League in Cairo and in all pan-Arab and international conferences related to the Arab and Islamic countries.

In the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, King Abdullah led



Arab armies in the struggle against Israeli forces to save Palestinian land from occupation.

The King's endeavours were motivated by his commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt led by Sharif Hussein who

waged a war of liberation against Ottoman rule in 1916 and led the Arabs towards unity and independence.

Under King Abdullah, Jordan witnessed an era of stability, security and development.

Zarqa police crack down on burglaries
Authorities arrest 25 suspects over 3 weeks

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Zarqa police Tuesday announced the arrests, over a three-week period, of 25 members of five gangs in connection with several thefts in different parts of the Kingdom, according to Brigadier Abdul Kader Oran, director of the Zarqa Police Department.

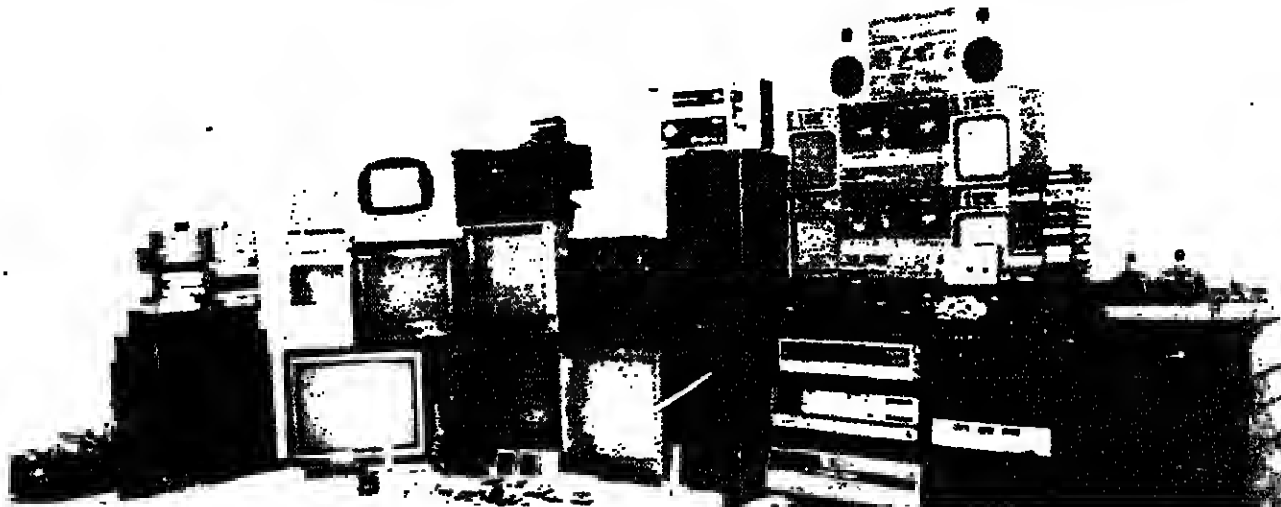
Brig. Oran said the latest arrest took place in July 9, when police apprehended three persons, aged 30-35, suspected of stealing more than 10 bus shipments worth of commercial goods.

He said the suspects allegedly sold the goods in urban areas. Seven of the buses were burglarised in Zarqa and three in Amman.

"Our units became suspicious of a taxi transporting two passengers at 3 a.m., and pulled them over," he said.

After searching the car, he said, police found boxes which they believe were part of the reported goods stolen from one of the buses. He said police also found several keys with one of the passengers.

Brig. Oran said the authorities also arrested eight members of a gang suspected of 18 burglaries in Amman and three others in



Seized items from various burglaries are put on display at the Zarqa Police Department for identification and retrieval by owners.

Zarqa, and setting fire to some of the burglarised homes. He said the estimated value of cash and items stolen in these burglaries was more than JD 250,000.

According to Brig. Oran, a police patrol pulled over a male driver.

The suspect was not carrying a driver's licence, he said.

"The man had a previous record, and after investigations he confessed to the crimes and informed us about the rest of the gang members," said Brig. Oran.

In another incident said Brig. Oran, Zarqa police received a call from indi-

viduals informing them that persons were trying to sell two ancient mosaics in Zarqa. The sale of antiquities is a crime in Jordan.

A police search ended in a dawn raid on an apartment in Zarqa, and the arrest of seven suspects, said the official.

Another case involved two individuals in their mid-30s suspected of stealing 12 Mercedes Benz vehicles, he said.

The suspects would use the cars until they ran out of gasoline then discarded them, said the Brigadiers.

On June 29, police received a missing car report, he said. Zarqa law enforcement officials found the car

parked in the Hashemieh area with a male standing near the car, said Brig. Oran.

"Our investigators arrested the suspect, who confessed to the other thefts," the official said.

Zarqa police also apprehended three gang members suspected of selling smuggled television sets from the free zone, he said, adding that officials recovered 77 sets.

According to Brig. Oran, all the suspects arrested confessed and reenacted the crimes. He added that most suspects had previous records and were unemployed. He did not identify any of the suspects, but

said most of them resided in Zarqa, or came from Amman to Zarqa to work.

The official said the suspects had sold some of the stolen items, and the authorities collected what remained so that the burglary victims can report to the Zarqa Police Department to identify and retrieve their belongings.

Brig. Oran said he was dissatisfied with the way the court deals with suspects.

"Unfortunately most people we arrest are back on the streets because they get the minimum penalty and they are set free to steal or to hurt innocent citizens," Brig. Oran said.



TO HEALTH: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and a large audience at Wasieh village in Madaba district Tuesday

attend ceremonies for the inauguration of a health clinic, established by the Lions Club of Amman (Petra photo)

Electricity company asks for interest rescheduling

IRBID (Petra) — The Irbid District Electricity Company (IDEC) Tuesday requested that the government help ease the company's financial burdens by rescheduling interest on loans taken earlier for expansion projects in the governorate.

Abdul Raouf Sheikh, the company director general, made the request to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Tala' Ureiqat during his minister's visit to the region to review energy-related issues.

Mr. Sheikh also suggested that the government approve a new tariff on electric power consumption charges and that the company be allowed to set up a power station at Sabha in the Mafrqa area and at Ishafina in the Irbid region to expand its operations.

Government expected to decide on cellular telephone network tender

By Issam Qadamani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the next two weeks, the government is expected to take a final decision on awarding a tender to a local firm to install and operate a multi-million dollar cellular telephone network in the Kingdom.

Minister of Post and Communications Hashem Dabbas told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the ministry has referred the project to the Cabinet which upon approving it will arrange for immediate implementation.

The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has completed preliminary measures linked to the tender and has recommended a firm which has offered the best bid to carry out the project, said Dr. Dabbas.

According to the minister, who declined to give the name of the firm, the project was expected to cost between

\$45 and \$50 million.

In April, the TCC announced that it had accepted bids for a licence to install and operate a cellular telephone network. The TCC said in its April announcement that it had accepted a bid from a Jordanian firm in partnership with the U.S. company, Motorola, which is on the Arab League's boycott list.

Motorola, whose local partners include the Housing Bank, the Arab Banking Corporation, the Union Bank, for Investments and the Mid Investment Bank came first in the bids received in April.

The Wireless cellular telephone enables subscribers to make local and international calls from anywhere in the country.

According to TCC sources the project would cost the government nothing. Instead, the service com-

pany is required to pay a licence fee of JD 7 million to the TCC, plus compensation for scrapping the existing mobile telephone system and a minimum 20 per cent annual royalty to the state-owned TCC.

According to the sources, the project would be carried out in two stages: The first in the Amman, Zarqa, Madaba and Salt areas and the second in the rest of towns and villages and at the industrial estates.

The tender for the project, which is expected to be operational within a year, was open only to Jordanian companies according to law, but it required local firms to be associated with foreign companies with proven experience in the field.

The sources said seven local firms sent in bids for the project, but they declined to give the name of the company that has been selected.

Excavations resume in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — A team from the Institute of Archaeology and anthropology at Yarmouk University and the Department of Antiquities has resumed excavations at the Basileh area northeast of Irbid.

According to Zeidun Muheisen, the institute director and supervisor of the work, the team seeks to unearth residential quarters,

graveyards and other remains close to several churches which were discovered in the area in previous excavation seasons.

The team recently discovered tombs carved from the rock and several graves, all dating back to the Roman and Byzantine eras, said Dr. Muheisen.

In the earlier seasons, the excavators unearthed a huge

building surrounded by smaller chambers, and walls surrounded by walls and large squares, probably used as an industrial centre, he added.

In addition, excavators in past seasons unearthed residential quarters in a settlement dating back to the Umayyad and Mamluke eras identified through the numerous pieces of pottery and coins found on the site.

Workshop finalises documents for Cairo conference
Princess Basma urges courage in addressing population issues

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The two-day workshop on population policy Tuesday ended by finalising the five documents presented by the National Population Committee (NPC) stressing the importance of Jordanian women's role in economic activities, the importance of birth spacing and creating a balance between the population and available resources.

"It is time we set our priorities and provide solutions to our population problems and we need to be more courageous in discussing our problems to serve our future generations," Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said during the closing ceremony held at Amra Hotel.

Addressing representatives of various concerned government departments, private institutions, universities and

volunteer groups, Princess Basma, who chaired the meeting, said she hoped that all concerned authorities will coordinate and work together on the issue to avoid wasted efforts in the future.

According to Minister of Labour Khalid Ghazawi head of the NPC, the documents to be presented at the meeting will be a strong and solid reference to be used at the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo.

Mr. Ghazawi said five documents were discussed in the gathering, and participants came up with recommendations to be adopted for the future, as well as presented the Jordanian documents to the Cairo meeting next month.

In describing the first document on Jordanian women and development, he said "women's role in the society is still limited, and we need to

improve the working conditions and opportunities for women to enable them to actively participate in the society."

As for the second document, on epidemics and demography, participants called for concentrating on epidemics and the need for their early detection because, they said, it is much less expensive to detect the disease than to cure it since Jordan has a high birth rate which will make it difficult in the future to control such diseases, the minister said.

The meeting also recommended cooperation with international organisations to prevent epidemic diseases in the Kingdom, and that private medical centres report to the Ministry of Health if a potential epidemic is detected.

On the third document, on pregnancy-related deaths and diseases, the specialists called

for a national pre-natal centre and providing urban governmental clinics with advanced equipment, establishing clinics to promote birth spacing, "and respecting parents' wishes to have as many children as they want."

"We need to consider tradition, values and Islamic regulations that we follow and respect," said the labour minister.

The fourth document was on population, environment, energy and natural resources in Jordan. The participants suggested restructuring the population distribution to suit all areas in the Kingdom.

In addition, participants stressed the need to use material that is environmentally safe and encourage people to use solar energy and educate them on energy conservation measures.

The final document discussed the economic and social effects of birth spacing. Participants saw the NPC programme as very important and said it should be supported in order to conduct more research in birth spacing.

According to NPC Secretary general Nabih Salameh, the documents will be presented to the Council of Ministers for approval.

In addition, he said, Jordan's participation in the Cairo conference is significant because "we will get a chance to look at other nations' population problems and the way they solve them."

"Since Jordan lacks financial resources, we are unable to conduct all the projects we aim at, and hopefully we will obtain support from the conference organisers (U.N.)." Mr. Salameh said.

Yesterday's event was organised by the NPC in cooperation with the European Union (EU).

NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Germany, Colombia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to the President of Colombia congratulating him on his country's National Day. King Hussein also sent a cable to Roman Herzog, congratulating him on his election as president of the Federal Republic of Germany. The King wished him continued good health and happiness and the German people further progress and prosperity.

King receives cables of support

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received two cables from Vice President of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Industry and Trade Haidar Murad and President of the Jordanian Truck Owners Association Mohamad Abu Hasweh. In their cables, Mr. Murad and Mr. Abu Hasweh expressed their full support for the contents of the King's speech early last week on the establishment of a just, comprehensive and durable peace which the future generations will accept. Mr. Murad and Mr. Abu Hasweh also voiced their two federations' allegiance to the King.

Envoy visits Mitterrand in hospital

PARIS (Petra) — Upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein, Jordan's Ambassador to France Mu'tasem Bilbeisi Tuesday visited French President Francois Mitterrand at a Paris hospital where the French leader underwent prostate surgery.

Mr. Bilbeisi conveyed to Mr. Mitterrand the King's best wishes for a speedy recovery.

School performance symposium scheduled

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day regional symposium on monitoring and evaluating of school performance will be held here Saturday July 23 to discuss Jordan's experience in this arena. The symposium is being organised by the National Centre for Educational Research and Development in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Taking part in the symposium will be representatives of Sudan, Tunisia, Lebanon, Oman, Syria, Iran, Turkey, Palestine, in addition to representatives of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the Ministry of Education and the Armed Forces Education Department. The symposium seeks, among other things, to enhance national capacities in the area of monitoring and evaluating school performance.

CDD responds to five blazes

IRBID (Petra) — Fire-fighting teams from the Civil Defence Department (CDD) here extinguished five blazes which broke out Monday in various parts of the governorate, according to Director of the Irbid Civil Defence Department Fathi Najib Saud. Col. Saud said CDD fire-fighting teams extinguished a fire in Kufri Kefie in Kura district.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

★ Concert by Al Fuheis group at the South Theatre at 20:30

PLAY

★ Play in Arabic entitled "A Black Comedy" by Majid Al Qasas at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of abstract oil paintings by Mahin Al Sarraf at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utbeina (Tel. 826932).

★ Oil paintings exhibition by Su'ad Hilmi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639350).

Conference ends seeking NGO help in securing equal rights for women

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day conference on women and their involvement in socio-economic development Tuesday ended with the participants calling on non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help secure a political decision from the government guaranteeing equal opportunities for Jordanian women in all social, economic and political fields.

A statement at the end of the meeting, organised by the National Federation of Business and Professional

Women's Club (BPWC), called on the NGOs to help set up an aid fund to benefit victims of broken homes and those suffering family problems, divorces, poverty, and the loss of breadwinners because of death, sickness or imprisonment.

The conference, which was organised to mark the International Day of the Woman, the year of the Family and the lapse of 10 years since the BPWC's establishment of a counselling office for women, recommended that

an integrated programme be worked out to promote the concept of democracy and train women to exercise such principles at home and in civil institutions.

The participants appealed to the media to support women's causes and to advocate the establishment of centres for family counselling.

The conference said that an awareness campaign should be launched to orient parents on sound and proper ways of raising a family.

Clinton does not rule out any option for Haiti

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — President Bill Clinton reiterated that he did not rule out a military intervention to force out Haiti's military leaders if sanctions against that country failed.

"We've talked to other countries. We don't rule anything out," Mr. Clinton said late Monday in Miami.

"We have made it clear that people who are usurping power are going to have to go," Mr. Clinton said referring to Haiti's military leaders.

Talking to reporters before he boarded a flight to Maine, Mr. Clinton said "there's no indecision" regarding U.S. policy towards Haiti.

"We're proceeding to tighten the sanctions as we said we would," said Mr. Clinton, who backed statements made earlier by Secretary of State Warren Christopher to NBC Television from Israel, where he was trying to break an impasse in Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations.

Mr. Christopher said the United States might resort to a military invasion to remove the Haitian military which ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

"Clearly, nobody thinks the use of force is the most attractive option, but it may come to that," Mr. Christopher said.

"It's a time for their illegal

government to go. We ought to bend all of our efforts in that direction," he added.

The United States is hoping that this pressure will be effective. At the same time, the president has deliberately kept the use-of-force option on the table," Mr. Christopher said.

Meanwhile, the State Department said it was seriously considering a proposal from U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to send a 15,000-member multinational force to Haiti to keep the peace once democracy was restored.

The U.N. chief declined to say whether they could be used to oust the military, but he called for a 5,000-strong force to be deployed all at once to secure airports, ports and highways which may have to use "coercive means to fulfill its mandate."

A second contingent would follow to revamp the military and police in accordance with the Governors Island accord signed a year ago.

"This two-phased approach has merit and is worth active consideration," said State Department spokesman David Johnson.

The proposal recommends that the first phase of the operation be carried out either by a multinational force or an inter-American force authorised by the U.N. Security Council.

A Cable News Network-Time magazine poll found that 75 per cent of Americans are opposed to a U.S. military intervention in Haiti, but that 51 per cent would favour the United States participating in a multinational operation.

The Clinton administration has been under pressure from both Republican and Democratic legislative leaders and U.S. allies not to push too quickly toward a military option and instead give sanctions enough time to work.

To that end, the U.S. embassy in the Dominican Republic announced Monday giving that country helicopter and military equipment worth some \$15 million to use along its border with Haiti to enforce the embargo.

Mr. Clinton's special envoy to Haiti William Gray first announced the military aid in June amid reports that gasoline smugglers continue to pour over the border despite the trade ban.

The military and their allies have generally been insulated from the embargo, but the sanctions have aggravated the country's grinding poverty sending tens of thousands of Haitians fleeing, most of them seeking U.S. shores.

Clinton has had to revise the U.S. policy of Haitian refugees several times to keep up with the rising tide of

asylum seekers and quell protests from human rights groups and lawmakers.

Currently, refugees picked up at sea are taken to one of several processing centres in the Caribbean where those who have grounds for political asylum are given temporary safe haven to one of the centres.

Only those who apply from Haiti will be considered for asylum in the United States.

Haiti's interim Prime Minister Emile Jonassaint — not recognised by the international community — has replaced two government ministers, officials said.

Interior and National Defence Minister Wilio Noulles was replaced Monday by retired General Carl Michel Nies, who held the same post under former Prime Minister Marc Bazin.

Minister of Planning, External Cooperation and Public Administration Emmanuel Ford was replaced by Andre Saint-Julien.

Officials offered no explanation for the changes.

Informed sources reported Monday that U.S. Senator Bill Richardson had met here with Haiti's top military commander, General Raoul Cedras.

The reason for the meeting was not disclosed, but the Democratic Senator is considered close to U.S. President Bill Clinton.



A Haitian worker unloads charcoal from a boat at the Cite Soleil harbour in Port-Au-Prince while another carries sugar cane. Despite rumours of a U.S. invasion, street commerce continues along the waterfront (AFP photo)

Italian government crisis eases on Berlusconi talks compromise

ROME (R) — Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, engaged in a damage limitation drive, spelled out ways Tuesday to amend a decree curbing powers of arrest that has brought his government to the brink of crisis.

Passed by the cabinet last Wednesday, the decree removes bribery, corruption and a string of other offences from the list of those for which a suspect can be remanded in custody.

It has brought a storm of protests from anti-graft and anti-mafia magistrates and isolated Mr. Berlusconi, brought to power on a wave of popular disgust with Italy's corrupt old guard, from the two main partners in his two-month-old coalition.

Interior Minister Roberto Maroni of the federalist Northern League repeated Tuesday that the decree should be scrapped when it is debated in the afternoon by the Constitutional Affairs Commission of the Chamber of Deputies.

"Let's cancel out this decree. Let's block the effect it is having. Then we can sit down and talk about it," Mr. Maroni said.

But he did not repeat previous threats to quit.

The 51-member commission must recommend to the full 630-seat Assembly whether the decree is constitutionally valid.

Mr. Berlusconi, who challenged Mr. Maroni Sunday to resign or retract allegations that he had been tricked into backing the decree, said he

being held without trial.

Financial markets, which plunged Monday as threats and insults flew around the government, recouped some of their losses Tuesday as tempers eased.

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Mr. Berlusconi, who challenged Mr. Maroni Sunday to resign or retract allegations that he had been tricked into backing the decree, said he

believed the future of his government was not at risk and the Maroni row could be cleared up.

Mr. Berlusconi's spokesman Antonio Tajani, speaking in Strasbourg, told Italian reporters: "There will not be a government crisis because common sense will prevail."

The furore over the decree, which has force of law for 60 days pending parliamentary acceptance or rejection, is the first serious test of Mr. Berlusconi's ideological divide coalition's ability to strike a deal on contentious issues.

The League, which has the largest number of deputies in Mr. Berlusconi's alliance, has blasted the decree as an attempt to restore a political old guard buried by Italy's two-year tangentopoli (bribeville) scandal.

The neo-fascist National Alliance has also slammed the decree, arguing that corruption and bribery should be restored as offences for which suspects can be preventively detained.

Apart from its restriction on pre-trial custody, the decree would make it illegal for journalists to report before a suspect has been charged that he is under investigation.

Leaks of formal notices of investigation, known in Italian as an "avviso di garanzia", have been a key weapon in the assault by Milan's pool of "clean hands" anti-graft magistrates on corruption in the upper reaches of politics.

Japanese media sceptical of Murayama's 'caring' politics

TOKYO (AFP) — Major Japanese dailies Tuesday derided Japanese Premier Tomiichi Murayama's first policy speech for its lack of concrete measures to back his "caring" policies.

"What does 'politics that care about people' mean?" the Mainichi newspaper, one of Japan's three major dailies, asked in an editorial Tuesday.

"It's too abstract and sounds like nothing but a campaign slogan," the daily said. Mr. Murayama's pledge to parliament on Monday to engage in politics that would ensure "hard-working ordinary people" would be able to have "rewarding and anxiety-free lives."

The conservative Yomiuri newspaper, which has the

largest circulation in Japan, was even more critical of the prime minister's "caring" line.

"When such a highly emotional and substanceless statement is made by the nation's top leader, it is time to start worrying about the future of Japanese politics," it said.

The reason for the anxiety was that Mr. Murayama's Social Democratic Party (SDP) had used "such honeyed words before in announcing policies that completely disregard the viability of measures proposed or whether fiscal resources exist to fulfill them," the Yomiuri editorial said.

"We are deeply anxious that the Murayama administration may postpone pending problems — however ur-

gent or unavoidable they may be — on the pretext of 'caring,'" it added.

Even the Asahi newspaper, in the most sympathetic editorial of the three, complained about the lack of substance to Mr. Murayama's speech.

While bailing Mr. Murayama's pledge to give priority to "hard-working ordinary people" rather than "the state or industry," the newspaper said he "should have offered specific policy proposals to the full extent" to back his promises.

If he is to continue to reduce and tackle welfare matters, he cannot avoid facing the problem of raising revenue, but "he failed to convey his eagerness for implementing tax reforms" to secure necessary funds.

Mitterrand 'perfectly well', to leave clinic soon

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand was feeling "perfectly well" Tuesday after his second prostate operation in two years and will leave hospital towards the end of the week, his doctors said.

Professor Adi Steg, head of the team of surgeons, told reporters the 77-year-old Socialist president spent a comfortable night at Paris' Cochin Hospital after surgery to remove an obstruction from his urinary tract.

"He is reading the morning papers, and so he's well. The president's state of health has not made him reduce his activity in the slightest nor diminished his ability to carry out his official duties," Prof. Steg said.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur will chair Wednesday's weekly cabinet meeting, normally the president's prerogative, but there will be no formal transfer of power, officials said.

Press commentators said Mr. Mitterrand's operation, 22 months after he first underwent prostate cancer surgery, was unlikely to have a political impact since there was no sign it would prevent him finishing his 14 years in office next May.

But several noted that the president had talked a lot about death in recent weeks. Commenting on the demise of veteran North Korean dictator Kim Il-Sung at 82, Mr. Mitterrand said in Naples on July 9: "There is an age to die. Anyone who approaches those shores would be wrong not to think about it."

Some French newspapers speculated that the operation might indicate the cancer had spread, contrary to his official medical bulletins.

Kuchma sworn in; will look to Russia to save Ukraine's economy

KIEV (AFP) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma was sworn into office Tuesday and vowed to look to Russia for help in rebuilding Ukraine's shattered economy to avert "economic catastrophe".

In a 110-minute inaugural address to some 800 foreign and Ukrainian dignitaries, Mr. Kuchma also pledged to adhere to all previously concluded international accords and commitments, but said he would change foreign policy.

The period of romanticism linked to building the state is over," said 55-year-old Kuchma, following the inaugural ceremony held at the parliament in the presence of Ukrainian politicians, foreign ambassadors and other dignitaries.

"Self-isolation from the CIS is a serious mistake," he said, referring to the Commonwealth of Independent States, the association of countries conceived as a loose successor to the Soviet Union.

Kiev joined the CIS, but

has not joined several key agreements, including the collective defence treaty.

"We must not only be part of the CIS but must take part in setting the rules of the game and in that way protect our interests," Mr. Kuchma said.

He read from a prepared text in Ukrainian despite his own admission that he speaks the language poorly. He has vowed to elevate Russian to the status of an "official" language while retaining Ukrainian as the "state" tongue.

Mr. Kuchma's predecessor, Leonid Kravchuk, relied heavily on support from hardline nationalists strongly opposed to closer ties with Russia or to the CIS which Russia dominates.

Mr. Kuchma however campaigned on promises to strengthen Ukraine's economy by resurrecting links with Russia that were built over seven decades under the Soviet system and Tuesday made clear he would follow through on that pledge.

One of his first goals after

taking office, he said, would be to negotiate a wide-ranging economic treaty with Russia.

He gave no details on this, but in a television interview Sunday Mr. Kuchma cited possible creation of a joint Russian-Ukrainian trade bank, an integrated banking system, and removal of restrictions on industrial trade.

"I can't promise you that all of our problems will be gone tomorrow. Ukraine is on the edge of an economic catastrophe and to avoid this we will have to take hard and unpopular decisions," Mr. Kuchma stated.

He did not specifically address Ukraine's promises to get rid of all the nuclear weapons on its territory and to accede to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

But he did promise to abide by all earlier accords and in the television interview Sunday Mr. Kuchma made clear that he was talking about nuclear disarmament, saying the sooner weapons were out of Ukraine the better.

Jupiter gets a 'big black eye'

GREENBELT (R) — Two more huge chunks of a broken comet hurtled toward Jupiter Tuesday, setting the stage for a celestial light show that amateur astronomers may be able to see.

The crashes of the ninth and 10th fragments of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 were likely to be as powerful as two that landed Monday, the first of which nearly blinded a massive telescope in Hawaii and created a "black eye" on Jupiter larger than the planet Earth.

The "black eye" consists of a dark nucleus surrounded by a circular ring, with an outer smudge visible in enhanced images taken by the orbiting Hubble space telescope, astronomer Heidi Hammel said at a news conference.

The first hit Monday sparked an explosion that rose 1,367 miles (2,200 km) above the planet's surface, said Eugene Shoemaker, who discovered the comet along with his wife Carolyn and amateur astronomer David Levy.

Mr. Shoemaker told reporters at Goddard Space Flight Centre in suburban Washington that Tuesday's comet fragment impacts have a good chance of showing up on amateur astronomers' telescopes.

"I think there's a good chance for amateurs with eight inch (20 cm) telescopes or larger to see something," Mr. Shoemaker said.

Credible amateurs have already reported seeing a flash at the time of impact, he said.

The first fragment that landed Monday may have been 2.1 miles (3.5 km) in diameter, he said, more than three times larger than any earlier fragment to hit the planet. A second fragment hit later Monday but has not yet been fully analysed.

Japanese astronomer Kaz Sekiguchi who watched the second hit Monday from the South African observatory at Sutherland told Reuters the impact created an explosion brighter than the planet's two



This image released from the Hubble space telescope shows the impact zone on Jupiter of fragment G from comet Shoemaker-Levy 9. Fragment G was the brightest and likely the largest of the 21 fragments from Shoemaker-Levy 9 which broke up during a close passage by Jupiter in July of 1992 (AFP photo)

nearest moons.

Battling to get an image despite poor conditions caused by water vapour in the atmosphere high above the Karoo Desert, Mr. Sekiguchi monitored the eighth impact through an infra-red telescope while colleagues used an optical instrument in an adjacent dome at the Mountaintop Observatory.

He said that the eighth fragment, dubbed H, appeared to have blasted deep into Jupiter's atmosphere pushing back an exploding plume that reached hundreds of miles above the planet.

Fragment H was the latest in a chain of 21 pieces of the Shoemaker-Levy comet expected to hit the giant planet by Friday.

Mr. Sekiguchi said the eighth blast lasted about 20 minutes before fading from his screen.

Three earlier chunks — fragments A, C and E — exploded in gaseous plumes

of fire when they plunged through Jupiter's ammonia clouds. They have left three dark-coloured spots on the giant planet's surface.

The impact of a smaller fragment, D, is visible right outside the "big black eye" caused by fragment G, Mr. Hammel said.

The eight fragments that have hit so far are part of a chain of 21 pieces of comet Shoemaker-Levy expected to blast Jupiter by Friday. The comet was torn to bits in 1992 when it passed within Jupiter's gravitational pull.

A so-called "gang of four" will be clustered together late Wednesday and early Thursday and three of these impacts are expected to land very close to each other on the planet's surface, each landing about 10 hours apart.

Mr. Shoemaker stressed that as violent as the impacts appear, they are not strong enough to ignite Jupiter or to have any effect on life on Earth.

On the wild side

PARIS (AFP) — A 43-year-old man set out Monday to break his own record for walking up and down stairs leading to the Sacre-Coeur Cathedral in Montmartre — a gruelling 25-day hike covering two million steps. Rene Beauvais, an amateur walker, said he will trudge up and down non-stop every day from 7:00 a.m. until midnight. Two volunteers will be on hand to help, one of them to feed him vegetarian meals. Mr. Beauvais set his current record in 1991, climbing and descending for 11 days and covering a million steps. He calculates that the new trek will cover two million steps. Mr. Beauvais said his drive is spiritual rather than athletic. "Above all what motivates me is meditation, which I've practiced for 17 years with an Indian master, rather than athletics," he said.

Surgeon general's son convicted of selling cocaine

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AFP) — The son of top U.S. health official Joycelio Elders was convicted Monday of selling cocaine to a undercover agent. Kevin Elders, 28, is to be sentenced on Aug. 29. The prosecutor said he would ask for 10 years in prison. Mr. Elders charged the July 29, 1993 drug deal was set up by someone who was threatening to expose his mother's confirmation hearing for surgeon general unless he got the drugs for him.

The judge ruled in a non-jury trial that Mr. Elders failed to prove entrapment. The police agent, Calvin Walraven, testified that he met Mr. Elders in 1990 and had used drugs with him several times. Mr. Walraven turned police informant after being arrested on drug charges and told investigators Mr. Elders was one of his cocaine connections. He then tried to set up the deal for weeks before Mr. Elders finally agreed to obtain the drugs for him. Mr. Elders said his mother, who has suggested that legalising drugs could reduce crime, did not know the extent of his drug problem.

Clothing designer of the '90s shoots to please

DERRY, N.H. (AP) — The 1960s had the dye. The '70s, leisure suits. The '80s, power ties. The '90s, if Frank Algayer's idea catches on, will have clothes riddled with bullet holes. Algayer shoots holes into clothing to his customers' specifications. They can choose handgun holes, rifle holes or machine gun holes. The price: \$35 for T-shirts, certificates of authenticity included. Algayer, a 44-year-old carpenter, calls himself an artist who "just wanted to see how many other twisted people were out there like me." The New Hampshire attorney general's office has complained that Mr. Algayer is profiting from gang violence and that the idea is insensitive. "This is in no way meant to promote violence, the gang lifestyle or macho militarism," Mr. Algayer said. "It's just a fashion statement. If you try to read anything into it, you're just dead wrong." Mr. Algayer began advertising about two weeks ago. He's taken about 25 orders.

Fair weather takes toll on Japanese fowl

TOKYO (AP) — Chickens are dying by the thousands. A steel plant has closed down. For parts of Japan, this is the driest, hottest summer in 20 years. Just a day after torrential rains poured down on the Tokyo area, stopping trains and flooding some houses, Tuesday's prediction for the hardest hit areas in the southwest was sunny skies. And for poultry, that means trouble. Over the past three weeks, 110,000 dead chickens have been found on poultry farms in Tokushima, a prefecture (state) in the south that 6.4 million of the fowl — or about 5 per cent of the nation's total — call home.

"Birds don't do well in the heat," said Toshio Inagi, a local government official. "But we've never seen beat like this. Last week, the mercury soared to 38.4 degrees Celsius (101 F), the highest since the Tokushima Weather Bureau began keeping records in 1929."

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Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

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Life for Dead Sea

JORDAN WILL today be host to another important event in the history of the region: the trilateral commission that was set up in Washington last October will have its first meeting at the ministerial level on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea. But the meeting, beyond its historical and symbolic significance, should serve as a useful political tool to advance the peace process, if the encounter has to be successful as well.

How might that be achieved, given the fact that the benefits each party will derive from it are not equal or, worse, are mutually exclusive?

There may be no easy answer to a question like this, since it is not easy for us Jordanians to determine for either the Americans or the Israelis what they stand to win or lose from any particular situation or activity. At best we can answer only for ourselves.

The Dead Sea meeting has to be felt and seen by the Jordanian public, rather than being another dramatic gesture requested by the U.S. towards Israel, as a real step towards addressing Jordanian and Arab rights. In other words, the meeting has to produce a promise, or an indication at least that the outcome of the negotiations process will not prejudice those rights which our people strongly feel are theirs. The Israelis, particularly Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and the Americans, particularly Secretary of State Warren Christopher, know what those rights are; and they are in a position to know also that neither the Jordanians nor the rest of the Arabs will accept peace at any price.

There will be more ways than one to reassure our public, if indeed the goal is to convince us of the viability of the most recent peace effort. We will have to leave it to the politicians to say what might be needed to make the meeting a positive step on the road to a just and lasting settlement, and we trust that the prime minister, Dr. Majali, will be a true representative of what the Jordanians at large feel and aspire to. Beyond that, we expect the three gentlemen to do everything possible today to make Monday's summit between the leaders of Jordan, Israel and the U.S. what it should be: a milestone on the road to an historic Arab-Israeli reconciliation, but also a turning point in addressing issues that have divided us for decades.

Progress as well as history were made in Wadi Araba over the past two days. But much more needs to be done. We would want to trust that the rest of the "Jordan-Israel week" will give the most confidence and hope.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily said Tuesday that Israel should realise that Jordan is seeking genuine peace, and not at any price but a price that would guarantee national rights to water and land. Referring to the ongoing talks at Wadi Araba, the paper said it was strange to see the head of the Israeli delegation avoiding a question by a reporter about Israel's occupation of Jordanian territory as this casts doubts on Israel's real intentions. The paper stressed that Israel should openly admit that the talks will lead to the return of all the occupied Arab lands in the Wadi Araba region and should recognise the British mandate demarcation of the borders carried out in 1928, in implementation of the topics on the common Jordanian-Israeli agenda. We were happy to hear the head of the Jordanian delegation announce at the end of the first day of talks that the negotiations were positive, but, said the paper, it remains to be seen whether the sides will implement an agreement to be reached by the two sides in their current negotiations.

WHAT HAPPENED as a result of the Oslo and Cairo agreements was a major event in the history of the Middle East region in general and the Palestinian territories in particular, said Osama Shasha'a, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. The writer said that once the Israelis and the Palestinians extend autonomy rule to the rest of the occupied Palestinian lands, prior to the establishment of a Palestinian state, and once the Jordanians have regained their lost water and territory and demarcated the borders with Israel, peace would be at last prevail. But, said the writer, peace would create a vacuum in the minds of the Arab people in this region who, he said, would turn their attention to finding jobs, homes and food and could resort to any means to achieve their goals, reflecting on the situation in Russia in the post-cold war era, the writer said that the Russian society is beset with crime, unemployment and abject poverty although the people are rich. He said there is no prospect for war with the West. The writer said that peace ought to bring with it satisfaction to the people who cannot live in poverty and reject peace that could perpetuate unemployment and hunger.

Democrats and Republicans at war over the religious right

By Dr. James Zogby

AFTER ENDURING a barrage of Republican attacks over the past two years, Democrats began to fight back. In an effort to define an issue that will shape their campaign strategy for the 1994 Congressional elections, the Democrats have launched a well-orchestrated campaign criticising the Republican Party for being taken over by "radical right-wing religious elements."

In the past two months, well-publicised speeches by the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) David Wilhelms, Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) Rep. Vic Fazio, and U.S. Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders have all asserted the religious rightwing's "takeover" of the Republican Party. And on a number of occasions, President Clinton himself has expressed concern over the growing influence of "intolerant and radical" forces in the Republican Party.

In an effort to feed this campaign, both the DNC and the DCCC have issued regular news releases and produced a press guide for the national media. By now, two months into campaign, hardly a day passes without one major newspaper or television news programme carrying a story about the right wing's influence within the Republican Party. An active debate between liberal and conservative columnists has filled the editorial pages of the nation's newspapers with opinions about the activities of the "religious right".

What reinforces the

Democrats' charge is that it is true. During the month of June, on three successive weeks, the Christian right-wing takeover was on display in the Republican State conventions in Virginia, Texas and Minnesota. In Virginia, the well-organised Christian political movement formed the backbone of Oliver North's successful campaign to become the Republican nominee for Senate.

One week later in Texas, Republican delegates from the Christian right wing ousted the Republican Party chairman and elected a new party leader, Tom Pauken. The campaign posters used by their movement on the floor of the state convention read: "A vote for Pauken is a vote for God."

The following week at the Minnesota Republican State Convention, delegates aligned with the Christian right succeeded in anointing one of their own as the party's favourite for the Republican nomination for governor, Allen Quist. In so doing, they rejected the reelection bid of the current governor, Republican Arne Carlson, whose moderate policies had aroused them to action. Though Mr. Carlson may still win the Republican primary, Mr. Quist will have the party organisation behind him.

In the face of this new Democratic onslaught, the Republican Party has closed ranks. The chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC) has responded to the Democratic attacks by calling the attackers "bigots" and charging them of attempting to stir up a McCarthy-like anti-religious crusade. All 44 Republican senators

wrote to President Clinton urging him to rebuke the Democratic party chair for beginning this campaign.

There is no doubt that many of these national Republican leaders are uncomfortable with the new power of the religious right but practical politics demands that they not reject this potent force aligned with their party.

Recent analysis shows that the organised Christian movement has taken full control over the apparatus of 10 state Republican parties and exercises significant influence in eight others. They have run for and won office in thousands of local jurisdictions across the U.S. For example, the organised Christian movement now boasts of controlling 2,250 school boards throughout the country.

A Republican leader who rejected this level of grassroots power would not only threaten his or her own chances for reelection, but would also damage the chances of the Republican Party scoring major victories in the national elections in 1994 and 1996. So while they may not be pleased with this "new factor" within their party, they feel that they need to support it anyway.

The history of this Christian rightwing "takeover" can be traced to a number of political and social factors, but its most immediate antecedent is the group called the "Christian Coalition." Founded by Reverend Pat Robertson in 1989, the Christian Coalition was Rev. Robertson's effort to institutionalise the momentum generated by his failure in the 1988 Republican presidential nomination. Realising how open U.S.

politics is to organised grassroots activity, Rev. Robertson vowed to launch a group that would build political power from the bottom up. The Christian Coalition, based on the network of evangelical Christian groups nationwide, held training seminars for their members on how to increase their organised vote, how to run for office, how to run for political party post and how to make their organised vote count in elections.

They played by the rules and showed that they could master the rules and win. The proof of their success is their essential control of one-third of the Republican state party organisations.

What concerns Democrats and many moderate to liberal Republicans is that the philosophy of this religious right-wing movement is not only conservative, but also somewhat intolerant of opposite views.

As DNC Chairman Wilhelms suggested in his first speech on this issue, it is one thing to disagree over issues, but it is quite another to denounce your opponents as "Godless" or "anti-Christ." Mr. Wilhelms noted in a speech at the latest Christian Coalition convention that he, too, was a Christian and a person of "deep faith" — but he differed from the Christian Coalition on a number of issues. Mr. Wilhelms chided the group for claiming that it is, in effect, the only group that had "God on its side." The Democrat was repeatedly booed by the audience.

At Christian Coalition meetings the group begins with a pledge — not the usual pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag — but one

of their own making. It was widely reported that when former Vice President Dan Quayle spoke to a Christian Coalition training conference in January of this year, he led the group in their pledge. Facing a flag with a cross on it and with hands over their hearts, Mr. Quayle and the audience of 2,000 recited:

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Saviour, for whose Kingdom it stands, one saviour, crucified, risen and coming again, with life and liberty for those who believe."

The Christian Coalition's newspaper runs articles with titles like "Think Like Jesus," "Lead Like Moses," "Fight Like David," "Run Like Lincoln" and "believe it or not, the Lord may want you to run for office."

While this "religious fundamentalism" frightens many, what is too often ignored in critiques of the Christian right are the root causes of the movement.

Liberal Democrats decry the Christian movement's organised campaigns against homosexuals, abortion, civil rights, government social programmes and their strong position for "American military might in the world." But, on a very basic level, what motivates the Christian right, like other fundamentalist movements, is its fear of a world gone out of control — of a decline in values and a breakdown of the very fabric of society.

These concerns are very real to too many Americans and they will not go away by attacking a movement seeking to address them. The debate that should be taking place, but which has not yet begun, is the debate

over the root causes and fundamental solutions to the real problems that plague society. But in the meantime, Democrats and Republicans are debating a symptom of these problems: the success of the religious right's effort to gain control of the Republican Party.

Democrats will attempt to make the strength of the Christian right within the Republican Party an issue in this fall's elections. Republicans are in an uncomfortable but necessary alliance with the Christian right and will defend the movement, hoping that it will help them win as many Senate and congressional seats as possible — possibly even gaining control of Congress and setting the stage for their effort to regain the White House in 1996.

What causes concern in some Republican circles, however, is that if the Christian right succeeds in 1994, such a Republican victory may backfire on the party in the future. One must remember how the vitriolic speeches of Pat Robertson and Pat Buchanan at the 1992 Republican National Convention brought out a division between the right wing and moderate elements of the party. An even stronger religious right presence in the Republican Party after this year's elections may induce moderate Republicans to abandon the party or drag it down in a deeply divisive internal debate. Either course of action would weaken the party's chances of unifying itself in the future.

This debate has posed a very special problem for the American Jewish community and supporters of Israel.



Finland sees EU position boosting gateway membership

By Fredrik Dahl
Reuter

HELSINKI — Finland, on the northern rim of the continent, hopes membership of the European Union (EU) will boost its role as a commercial gateway between east and west in the post-cold war era.

A favourable geographical location, a developed market economy and long experience of eastern trade are factors which could give Finland an edge in attracting western firms eager to link Finland to Russia and the Baltic states.

Development of the gateway role is seen as a way to increase growth and employment in Finland, which plunged into depression in 1991 following the loss of the important Soviet market.

Transport of goods across Finland's 1,270 km border to Russia is already booming, providing new and much-needed business opportunities. Both transit traffic and the country's own trade with, for example, Russia and the Baltic Republic of Estonia are rising.

"Trade between Russia and western countries is going through Finland to a greater extent than before," said Paavo Suni, economist at the Research Institute of the Finnish Economy.

"If you export to St. Petersburg or even to the Moscow area, it is easy to do it through Finland," he said.

Finland was a fairly small country with high living standards, Mr. Suni said, adding: "It is a good base to operate from."

Foreign Trade Minister Pertti Salolainen said Finland in the 1990s was "not a remote corner outside the mainstreams of international trade" but a central part of an enlarged north European market.

"The gateway position is a reflection of Finland's altered economic geography and geopolitical status," Mr. Salolainen said.

He underlined the importance of Finnish membership of the European Union in developing Finland's gateway position.

Finland plans to join on January 1 provided membership is approved by a national referendum in October and by parliament.

"If we are members of the union we have far better possibilities to use these advantages," Mr. Salolainen told Reuters.

A Foreign Ministry working group has published a report on how Finland could strengthen its position as a gateway. Its proposals included improved railway and

road connections between Finland and Russia that would require vast investment.

"We need a lot of development in roads, railways, customs-clearance facilities, visa arrangements and so forth," Mr. Salolainen said.

Finnish transport and forwarding firms hope more and more foreign goods will be shipped through Finland from the west to the east and the other way around.

Esa Veijalainen, vice-president of the Finnload Group, said Finland offered a quicker and also more reliable route for transporting goods to Russia than, for example, Central Europe.

Finnload was founded three years ago by Finnish transport and forwarding companies to promote the country as "the centre between east and west."

Last year, Finland's income from all kinds of transit traffic doubled to two billion markka (\$382 million) and Mr. Veijalainen said twice as much could be handled without problems.

Finland's bilateral trade with the countries of the former Soviet Union is also increasing, although it is still below the level of roughly 12 per cent of its total exports in 1990.

20 years on, Cyprus still divided

By Michael Janssen

TWENTY years ago today the Turkish army invaded Cyprus and occupied the northern third of this island following a coup staged by the Greek military junta against the legal government of President Makarios.

The U.S. acquiesced in the coup and when Britain — a guarantor of Cyprus' integrity and security along with Greece and Turkey — volunteered to use its forces stationed in two sovereign bases here to counter the coupists and re-establish the Makarios government, the then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told the then British Foreign Secretary James Callaghan, "Don't be a boy scout, Jim."

This prepared the way for the Turks, as the other guarantor, to "intervene," that is invade, on the pretext of reestablishing the legitimate authority and protect the minority Turkish Cypriot community. While doing so the Turkish army expelled virtually the entire Greek Cypriot population from the occupied area and, threatening the Greek Cypriots with further expansion, gathered in all the Turkish Cypriots, living in the south of the island.

Today Cyprus is divided between the Greek Cypriot majority republic, recognised by the international community, and the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognised only by Turkey and subsidised by Turkey to the tune of \$150 million a year. Turkey also settled an estimated 50-60,000 of its citizens in northern Cyprus, the settlers and troops almost equalling the indigenous Turkish Cypriot population.

Since 1974 all the U.N. secretaries general and all the world's mediators have not been able to put Cyprus back together again. There are several reasons for this failure. First, no one has been prepared to compel the Turks to withdraw their 30-35,000 troops occupying the north of the island in order to make way for a settlement which would reunify the island and permit refugees (180,000 Greek Cypriots and 60,000 Turkish Cypriots) to return to their homes or, at least, reassert their claim to properties lost in 1974. Second, the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, had manipulated mainland Turkish politicians to support his

efforts to create a separate Turkish Cypriot state in northern Cyprus. And, third, Denktaş, now president of his statelet, refuses to step down and become anything less than chief executive in a larger, reunified Cyprus republic where his community would still be a minority.

Having engineered the division of Cyprus no one should have been surprised that Washington should want to put it back together again. Even during the Cold War, Washington, as with Israel as far as a Palestine settlement was concerned, was the key to achieving progress on the Cyprus issue.

A Greek Cypriot politician who once served as his community's negotiator in the intercommunal talks told this writer that during talks in Vienna as far back as 1977, the then U.N. Secretary General, Kurt Waldheim, in a fit of temper, shouted, "the Cyprus problem is solved both politically and on the map." It would seem that 17 years of talks have been illusion.

Following the 1974 crisis Greek Cypriots insisted on an end to the occupation, return of the refugees and reinstatement of the unitary republic which they, the 82 per cent majority, democratically dominated. Turkish Cypriots demanded recognition for the entity created by the Turkish army, communal separation and equal status with the recognised republic. The U.N. was mandated to negotiate an independent, bicomunal, bizonal, federal republic which would give the Turkish Cypriots near full autonomy and the Greek Cypriots enough powers to maintain the republic, established in 1960, as a single state. But Denktaş and Ankara were in a position to impose their will.

During endless, fruitless negotiations, the U.N.'s guidelines were eroded to the extent that the latest discussions have not even focused on the federal solution but a package of "confidence building measures" (CBMs) proposed by present U.N. Secretary General Bntros Ghali as a means of normalising relations between the two communities before tackling, once again, the elusive "final settlement".

The Greek Cypriot source said that during the latest Vienna meeting in May between Denktaş,

Turkey and U.S. and U.N. mediators (from which the Greek Cypriots were excluded), Denktaş secured "clarifications on 45 points in the document on CBMs of March 21st". This document had been accepted by the Greek Cypriots on condition that no changes would be made and rejected by Denktaş. "Some of these points are crucial to the question of sovereignty," asserted the source, as they concede to the Turkish Cypriots separate customs and immigration posts at Nicosia international airport due to be reopened as a CBM, the right to impose duties according to their own schedules, landing rights for aircraft, and recognition of their travel and export documents. "These concessions set the separatist pattern for the overall solution and grant practical recognition" to the breakaway Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, formally recognised only by Ankara, "without advancing the federal solution which the U.N. is mandated to pursue." Thus, "the CBM's will become the solution," he said.

Over the past few years Denktaş has stated repeatedly that "federation" as a solution was "dead". At first he opted for "confederation" (rejected as "camouflaged partition" by Greek Cypriots) but recently he proposed that the north should become a semi-autonomous Turkish Cypriot province of Turkey, already accomplished through economic integration. The south would then most likely press for early admission to the European Union, to which its governments have been committed for many years.

The partition of Cyprus is a de facto reality but not yet de jure.

"During all these years," the politician said, "they have really been waiting for us to sign an agreement" — any agreement. The time for signing is nigh.

The Republic's President, Glafkos Clerides, must sign "articles of agreement" before the Turkish Cypriot entity can achieve the de jure recognition and international status Denktaş seeks or its links with Ankara can be formalised. And like the PLO Chairman, Yasser Arafat, vis-a-vis Israel still possesses the power to deny legitimacy.

سكنا من لاجد

Jordan, Israel negotiators set Aug. 8 as date for beginning continuous talks

Following is a joint statement issued by the Jordanian and Israeli sides after the Wadi Araba meeting concluded July 19, 1994.

A. The delegations of Israel and Jordan met in the boundary area north of Aqaba and Eilat on July 18-19, 1994, to continue their bilateral peace negotiations. They confirmed the already established commission on Boundaries, Security, Water, Environment and related issues (such as energy), and the sub-agendas on security, borders and territorial matters; water, environment and related issues, signed in Washington on June 7, 1994.

B. The work was divided into three major subcommis-

sions:

- 1) Subcommission on boundaries
- 2) Subcommission on security
- 3) Subcommission on water, environment and related issues (energy).

C. The two sides have agreed as follows:

- 1) The talks will resume on a continuous basis starting August 8, 1994, and will proceed in the plenary, commission, sub-commissions, and any other agreed groups. The negotiations will alternate between the Israeli Dead Sea works and the Jordanian Potash township starting on the Israeli side for the next session; the next session on boundary, however, will take

place in the boundary area where our negotiations took place this time.

- 2) The boundary work will start by the preparation of joint maps and additional material by a joint team of experts (JTE), in accordance with a memorandum which has been concluded. Modalities of production of joint maps and additional materials on the Jordan-Israeli boundary have been worked out. The sub-commission will become the boundary maintenance and administration commission after the peace negotiations culminate in a treaty of peace, as stipulated in the common agenda.
- 3) Security

The Jordanian and Israeli

teams to the security subcommission focused in their detailed deliberations on the following:

Examination of the practical implications of the elements that constitute the security sub-agenda approved in Washington, June 7, 1994. A thorough review of these implications indicates that there is a broad understanding on these matters.

Discussions were held on the issues of confidence building measures. Specific measures have been jointly examined.

Both parties agree to continue their discussions in the next bilateral session, in order to reach agreement on the subjects on their common

security sub-agenda.

The two sides expressed their full satisfaction from the excellent and productive spirit that prevails and hence facilitates progress in this important issue.

4 A) Water

The sub-commission for water, energy and the environment, having discussed the issue of water:

- 4.1. Agreed to mutually recognise, as a result of their negotiations, the rightful allocations of the two sides in Jordan River and Yarmouk River waters, and to fully respect and comply with the negotiated rightful allocations, in accordance with agreed acceptable principles, with mutually acceptable quality.

- 4.2. Stressed the importance and the need to minimise wastage of water resources throughout the chain of their uses.

- 4.3. Stressed the need to make more water available for use as soon as possible.

- 4.4. Agreed to share, where appropriate, the available data on shared water resources, and to review the potentials for enhancement of water resources development and use.

- 4.5. Accepted the principle that the water issues along the entire border must be dealt with in their totality, including the possibility of trans-boundary water transfers.

- 4.6. Accepted the principle

of mutual prevention of harm to the water resources of the other party.

4 B) Environment

Jordan and Israel acknowledge the importance of the ecology of the region, its high environmental sensitivity and the need to protect the environment and prevent danger and risks for health and well-being of the regions' population. They both recognise the need for conservation of natural resources, protection of biodiversity and the imperative of attaining economic growth based on sustainable development principles.

In light of the above, both parties agree to cooperate in matters relating to environ-

mental protection in general and to those that may mutually affect them. Areas of such cooperation which deemed to reflect common understanding have been detailed in agreement on activities, projects and geographical spread thereof.

4 C) Energy

The parties referred to energy topics, having the potential of bilateral future cooperation, comprising energy generation such as oil shale utilisation, solar energy for power generation and interconnection of grids.

5) The parties agreed that negotiations on economic matters will continue in order to prepare for future bilateral cooperation.

Trilateral meeting today

(Continued from page 1)

a hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea at around 2.15 p.m. attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali in his capacity as foreign minister.

Experts from the three sides will start a plenary session at around 11 p.m. and work until noon before the gathering is upgraded to foreign ministers' level. An American team headed by John Spiros, a senior State Department official, arrived here on Monday to prepare for the meeting.

After the trilateral meeting, Dr Majali will also hold a one-hour meeting with Mr. Peres, officials said.

According to a schedule released by officials, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive here early morning from Syria (see story below) for a round of talks with His Majesty King Hussein in Amman.

The King and Mr. Christopher will hold a press conference at the Royal Palace around noon before the U.S. secretary of state and Dr. Majali fly by helicopter to the site of the trilateral commission's meeting at the Dead Sea. They are expected to arrive there shortly before 2 p.m.

Mr. Peres will cross the King Hussein Bridge around the same time and will be received by Minister of State

for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan. The two ministers will fly the short distance to the Dead Sea hotel by helicopter.

After speeches by Mr. Christopher, Mr. Peres and Mr. Majali, the meeting will go into a closed session attended by three aides from each side. Dr. Majali's aides will be Fayez Tarawneh, who headed the Jordanian delegation to the two-day talks in Wadi Araba, senior delegate Munther Haddad and Foreign Ministry official Omar Rifai.

Mr. Christopher is expected to be accompanied by Dennis Ross, the State Department's Middle East coordinator. The names of others who will attend the closed session were not immediately available; so were of those who will accompany Mr. Peres.

Following the session, the three ministers will address a press conference and Mr. Christopher will leave immediately thereafter.

Mr. Majali and Mr. Peres, accompanied by aides, will meet for one hour after Mr. Christopher's departure. Following that meeting, Mr. Peres will also leave.

Parallel to the Majali-Peres meeting, experts will continue their deliberations until 6 p.m. and will meet again at the same site for a brief session again on Thursday morning.

Jordan, Israel end talks

(Continued from page 1)

water resources.

"So far we did not tackle issues of boundaries... we have been negotiating to create the mechanism tools that will help us both to cope with substantive matters," the head of the Israeli subcommission on borders, told reporters in response to a question on whether the two sides have reached a common understanding on the legal reference for these boundaries.

Dr. Tarawneh pointed out that the mandate agreements between Jordan and the British mandate authority in 1922 and 1928 "was spelt out in words" and not demarcated professionally.

The subcommission on border, Jordanian delegate Abdullah Toukan said, will conduct "further analysis to determine the physical features and points that constitute the border points."

But he said that Jordan will not take Israel's security into account when negotiating the border issues. "The Kingdom categorically rejects that security be regarded as a criteria in the border talks," he said. "It is completely out of it."

Delegates could be seen shuttling between the large tent housing the experts on borders, security and water and the smaller tent where the heads of the two delegations and their main advisors were making the final decisions.

Negotiators who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the Jordanians felt that the Israelis were "ignoring the facts," especially that Israel had already signed the common agenda which refers to the mandate line as the legal reference for these talks.

The agenda signed between the two sides June 7 in Washington talks for "settlement of territorial matters and agreed definitive demarcation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel with a reference to the definition under the mandate."

It was evident as early as Monday's press conference that Mr. Rubinstein was stressing the Israeli argument when he responded to a question on Jordanian territorial rights by describing them as "territorial wishes."

This fundamental difference in approach was described by Jordanian negotiators here as an attempt by the Israeli side "to ignore the truth and bring us back to the zero point."

"The Israelis are claiming that topographic and geographic changes have occurred since the Israeli occupation and that since the mandate lines were not demarcated on the ground they could not be binding," one Jordanian delegate explained.

The delimitation lines of the mandate, according to experts, largely depend on the description of borders against specific landmarks in that area.

"Sometimes it would say that the border is two kilometres from a specific mountain or hill," a source explained adding that Israelis were claiming that the topographic and geographic landmarks themselves have changed and that this description was not enough.

The Jordanian side saw the Israelis as reversing an earlier commitment, when they signed the common agenda, to accept the description of the mandate documents written out in 1922.

'Education' hits self-rule talks

They are negotiating details of "early empowerment" in five areas—education, health, tourism, taxation and social affairs—for Palestinians in areas still under Israeli occupation.

They started discussing education on Monday and expected to start work on the issues of international monitors and a budget for the West Bank on Tuesday.

Palestinians began running their own affairs in Gaza and Jericho in May. Under PLO-Israeli interim peace agreement the rest of the West Bank will have limited autonomy in advance of Palestinian elections later this year.

Mr. Asfour said: "The disagreement is over the concept. The Palestinian concept is that the transfer of authority in education should take place without any obstacles or limitations."

"Their concept is that this matter is complicated and is interrelated with other fields... we haven't gone into details on the syllabuses yet."

Mr. Asfour and Mr. Qasbi both said the bloodshed on the border between Gaza and Israel on Sunday had affected

at the atmosphere at the Cairo talks.

Two Palestinians were shot dead and more than 100 people wounded in violence at the main Gaza exit point, where thousands of workers had waited for hours to go to jobs in the Jewish state. They were the bloodiest clashes in two months of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

"It's clear that what happened on the Erez crossing had an effect which cannot be ignored," said Mr. Qasbi.

"We know that the peace process is an integral process and the negotiations going on now on early empowerment... will be in vain if the peace process is destroyed," he added.

Mr. Qasbi denied the Palestinian police were unable to control the situation at the crossing point and instead blamed the Israeli procedures for the riots.

"People were suffocating at Erez—the people who were going to work were spending hours to cross."

"The Palestinian authority did everything they should... they will do what is needed to prevent a recurrence of the tragedy," he said.

Hamas claims killing of soldier

(Continued from page 1)

An unexploded grenade and bullets from two weapons were found near the scene, the army said.

Military sources said guerrillas had placed a ladder on the electronic border fence to set off an alarm and lure an army patrol to the scene. The officer was shot when he got out of a vehicle to inspect the area.

On Sunday, two Palestinians were shot dead, apparently by plastic bullets fired by Israeli troops, at the Erez checkpoint during protests by Arab labourers denied entry into Israel from Gaza.

Palestinian radio in the other autonomous area, Jericho, has been calling the two deaths confirmed by Palestinian hospital officials a massacre.

Local residents in Gaza and Jericho said the term was being widely used on the streets to describe Sunday's clashes, the worst since self-rule began in May.

Only last week, a Hamas leader said the organisation was refraining from attacking Israeli troops in Gaza, as an apparent effort to avoid confrontations with Palestinian police. But he said things could change in response to events.

"The massacre in Erez cannot pass without punishment," a senior commander

Kaddoumi 'not satisfied'

(Continued from page 1)

blamed for the lack of Jordan-PLO coordination, but said the PLO's preoccupations with moving from Tonis to the autonomous territories of Gaza and Jericho were keeping the organisation busy.

Jordanian-Palestinian "coordination should be through institutions because the next era is of reconstruction," Mr. Kaddoumi said. "We need support and coordination with Jordan."

"After the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in the liberated parts of Palestine, we would be able to speed up our coordination with Jordan," he said.

Mr. Kaddoumi, who is here on the first leg of a visit

which will also take him to Syria and Egypt, referred to the Jordanian-Israeli talks that began Monday and said it was "natural" for the Kingdom to have launched intense negotiations with Israel on the basic issues of conflict nearly three years into the Middle East peace process.

"The PLO considers the step as conducive to establishing peace and serving the common interests of the Palestinians and Jordan," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

"The regaining of Jordan's water and land rights is another important step towards achieving a just and comprehensive peace" in the Middle East, Mr. Kaddoumi said.

Yemen urges work

(Continued from page 12)

were the worst hit during the fighting.

But he said initial estimates by the World Health Organisation (WHO) showed Yemen would need about \$200 million of aid just to improve hygiene and sanitary conditions.

Hospitals have been allocated \$500,000 of medical aid, while families of war victims and about 300,000 Yemenis displaced by the conflict will also benefit from U.N. aid.

U.N. experts are due this week in Sanaa on a 10-day mission to evaluate the country's needs.

Mr. Ani said the situation in Aden had "vastly improved" and that drinking water supplies were restored to the city's northern suburbs in recent days.

The old town districts of Crater and Muallah were still without running water since work to repair the pumping station at Bir Nasser, damaged by northern troops "was not yet finished," he said.

On Tuesday queues of residents were still seen lining up at the city's 40 wells, witnesses said.

Tehran Radio said Iran had sent humanitarian aid and medicines to Yemen and that it would be willing to set up two vaccination centres in Aden.

A delegation from the Iranian foreign ministry led by Hossein Cheikhholeslam and two medical teams from the Iranian Red Crescent accompanied the aid, the radio said.

"If the Yemeni authorities agree the two medical teams will set up in Aden to vaccinate children against contagious diseases," said Parviz Vazirian, their leader.

Iran's Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Hassan Ruhani has urged Islamic countries to send aid to Yemen, saying Iran was willing to set an example.

About 700 southern Yemeni soldiers are stranded on a ship off the coast of Oman waiting permission to disembark, an exiled southern leader said.

The appointed "vice president" of the breakaway southern Yemeni state, Abdul Rahman Al Jifri, said he had called on the Omani government to allow the troops to land, he told Tuesday's edition of the London-based daily Al Hayat.

"Their situation is tragic on board a southern Yemeni warship which has no facilities for the people," he said.

Mr. Jifri appealed for Sultan Qaboos to intervene directly to help the stranded soldiers, saying the ship was currently off the coast of the southern Omani town of Salalah.

Christopher talks 'useful'

(Continued from page 1)

front-page article.

Mr. Assad in a telephone conversation last Friday with President Clinton "reaffirmed his commitment to achieving comprehensive peace in the region," the article said.

An upbeat Christopher declared Monday that the Arab-Israeli conflict is drawing to a close.

But in a veiled appeal to Mr. Assad to join other Arab leaders, he also said "this is a situation in which the peace must be comprehensive in order to be satisfactory."

A senior Israeli diplomat told reporters after Mr. Christopher had dinner with Mr. Rabin that "everything now depends on what he hears from Mr. Assad."

Last week Mr. Peres recognised publicly Syria's sovereignty over the Golan and stressed that Israel will

not sign a peace accord with Jordan at the expense of a pact with Syria.

Mr. Christopher said the statement on the Golan was "very courageous" while Syria dismissed it as nothing new.

Asked if the United States had resigned itself not to dealing with Lebanon separately from Syria, Mr. Christopher said: "Not at all. It's very important that we make progress on that track."

"Certainly there would have to be separate negotiations, there are separate issues but it's only realistic to recognise the close relations between those two countries," he said.

Mr. Christopher noted there had been "dramatic changes in the landscape" of the Middle East since his last peace missions.

"The major (Arab-Israeli) conflict has really begun to draw to a close," he said.

FIS condemns kidnapping

(Continued from page 12)

and secular forces and pro-western democracy advocates that has claimed more than 3,000 lives.

Yemen said Tuesday that not one, but two of its diplomats were kidnapped last week in Algeria.

In its first official mention of the Thursday incident, Yemen said both its outgoing ambassador and its newly-appointed envoy had been seized.

There was still no word on the identity of the kidnappers

or their motive. No ransom demands or claim of responsibility were known to have been made.

Yemen, in a statement distributed by the official SABA news agency, condemned the seizure of its diplomats and expressed "confidence in the efforts that the Algerian authorities are exerting to locate them safely and punish the perpetrators."

The statement from its Foreign Ministry said Yemen was following the matter and maintaining contacts with Algeria's government.

28 killed in Buenos Aires

(Continued from page 1)

to the Argentine capital. Thirty-four years ago its agents in Buenos Aires kidnapped Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann and brought him to Israel where he was tried for war crimes and hanged.

At the scene of the explosion, about 30 rescue workers appeared better organised early Tuesday than in the hectic hours immediately after the blast, keeping reporters and onlookers at a 50-metre

distance as they continued their quest for any survivors. Workers using backhoes and floodlights late Monday found they had to move gingerly through the rubble as several were injured by falling blocks of cement, authorities said.

Early Tuesday, they were stunned to locate a 40-year-old man, still alive though his legs had been crushed under the weight of metal girders.

Europe pollution to increase

LONDON (AFP) — Carbon dioxide (CO2) pollution will continue to increase in Europe over the next 20 years, exceeding European Union (EU) stabilisation targets, according to a report published Monday by the U.S. research group DRI/McGraw-Hill.

"National measures are unlikely to be sufficient for the EU to stabilise emissions at their 1990 levels by the year 2000," said the study on energy consumption in western Europe over the next twenty years.

CO2 emissions will increase by 5.2 per cent in Europe as a whole between 1990 and 2000 and by 16 per cent between 2000 and 2015, the report, released here, predicted.

Germany will be the only country where CO2 emissions will be lower in 2000 than 1990, said the study, due to reduced use of brown coal and to the economic recession. However, emissions will increase by 11 per cent in Germany between the year 2000 and 2015.

Rising pollution levels in Europe are due to growth in the transport sector and an increase in the use of fossil fuels for electricity generation, with a corresponding decrease in the use of nuclear energy, the report said.

It also said that primary energy consumption in Europe will increase, and that natural gas will be the main beneficiary of this increase.

Primary energy demand is set to increase by 1.5 per cent each year until the end of the century and then by 0.9 per cent until 2015.

Energy consumption will reach 1.56 billion tonnes of

oil equivalent (TOE) in the year 2000 and then 1.77 billion TOE in 2015, compared to 1.43 billion in 1993.

The report anticipated natural gas to be the fastest growing of all the primary fuels, with consumption in power plants increasing by an annual average of 9.6 per cent between 1993 and 2000.

The use of nuclear energy will decline because of heightened public concern about safety and about disposal and treatment of nuclear waste, said DRI.

"A large slice of the nuclear part that was built in the 1970s and 1980s will need to be decommissioned between 2005 and 2015," said the study.



Blood donation campaign at Marriott

The Amman Marriott Hotel employees in cooperation with the National Blood Bank held the second blood donation campaign for this year on July 13, 1994. This reflects their faith in the importance of maintaining the balance of blood enough when needed. Dr. Basma Khreishat supervised this campaign together with the technical team from the National Blood Bank/Ministry of Health. She thanked the management of the Amman Marriott Hotel for their preparation and the number of employees who contributed in this campaign.

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OECD says skilled and sales assistants will find employment in the future labour market

PARIS (AFP) — Education and training are the keys to jobs in tomorrow's world but even the semi-skilled such as sales assistants should find work in a new environment driven by information technology.

This is the bright side of a picture drawn by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in an annual report on employment published Tuesday.

The dark side is inhabited by about 35 million people who would be registered as unemployed in the 24 OECD countries in 1994.

This figure was likely to fall much in the short term because the current recovery has been "much weaker than that observed in past recoveries."

The number of unemployed in 1993 had risen to 33.5 million or 8.2 per cent of the workforce to 10.7 per cent in Europe.

The rate had fallen only in Canada, New Zealand and the United States. Some of the biggest increases had been in Finland and Sweden and the rate in Spain had risen to almost 23 per cent.

The total of 35 million in 1994 represented an increase of about 10 million in four years, and the OECD estimated that another 11 million people were discouraged from seeking work or were in "involuntary" part-time work.

On this basis the rate of unemployment in Japan more than doubled to 5.4 per cent. In Australia it rose from 10.8 per cent to 15.5 per cent.

Some of the observations in the report tempered views which have gained currency during the last few years.

The report said that it was "hardly apt" to describe the current downturn as a "white-collar recession" because blue-collar workers had continued to "bear the brunt" of job losses.

Only Finland and Sweden had experienced "major white-collar employment losses."

The biggest number of jobs had been shed in industrial sectors but the number of jobs created in the service sectors had been notably small.

Referring to concern that the recession was causing "social dumping" or the competitive reduction of benefits and social protection for workers, the report found that while governments in most OECD countries were tending to reduce regulatory controls, "there is no simple, direct association between labour standards and trade performance."

It also found that there had been little change in the last decade in the way in which workers were covered by collective agreements.

The weak creation of employment so far had led to fears that OECD countries might be heading for a "jobless" recovery, but this was because growth in output, particularly in the service sector, had been exceptionally weak. Growth was now gathering speed and had caused the opportunities for work to grow "considerably" in 1993 and into 1994.

The OECD stressed that

the labour market of the future would require people who had been trained to a high or relatively high level, but would also require people with vocational training which "should not be regarded as second-class compared with more academic studies."

The report also underlined the importance of apprenticeship schemes and arrangements involving companies in helping school leavers to make the transition to work.

Companies and people should also be prepared to be flexible in the way they organised their work, particularly to exploit information technology.

The future was one of "a continued, across-the-board increase in the levels of skills and competences required for employment."

Future demand would be strongest for "professional and technical, and administrative and managerial occupations, and in general the pattern of occupational change appears to provide comparatively favourable job opportunities for those with third-level education or high-level skills."

There would be changes too, in the structure of sectors which might be affected only indirectly by technological change.

"For example, sales assistants are projected to make a large contribution to employment growth over the next five to 10 years, despite being a relatively low-skilled category," the report explained.

Morocco to free energy, food imports next year

RABAT (R) — Morocco will lift restrictions on the import of energy products and foodstuffs like sugar, oilseeds and cereals early next year, the foreign trade ministry said Tuesday.

A decree published in the government gazette said the import of energy products would be fully liberalised on Jan. 1.

Morocco imported 6.1 million tonnes of crude oil worth 6.7 billion dirhams (\$760 million) last year.

The import of raw sugar will also be freed on Jan. 1 and of refined sugar and derivatives on Feb. 1. Last year raw sugar imports were 368,000 tonnes and refined sugar 18,000 tonnes, according to official figures.

Oilseed imports will be freed on March 1, cereals and derivatives on April 1, raw oils and oil cake on May 1, and refined oils and derivatives on June 1.

The ministry said the timetable was spread over a six-month period to allow the administration to "prepare accompanying measures required by this liberalisation, notably the implementation of the decisions of the final act of the Uruguay Round."

Export licences are still required for cereals flours except rice, charcoal, zoological collections and specimens, objects of historical interest and antiques more than 100 years old.

"Export licences are maintained for these products to safeguard fauna and flora in the historical, archaeological and artistic heritage," the decree said.

Arab Gulf countries seen pursuing reforms

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states are pressing ahead with plans to restructure their economies through privatisation and other reforms to offset weak oil prices and diversify income sources, an official report said Tuesday.

The trend gained momentum in the aftermath of the 1990-1991 Gulf war, when oil prices shot above \$40 before they languished at several dollars below OPEC's benchmark of \$21 a barrel.

"After the end of the Gulf crisis, a drastic change took place in the policies of Gulf governments which have affirmed their intention to begin gradual privatisation of public institutions and even set up infrastructure projects and sell them to the private sector," said the report by the Bahraini-based Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC).

"We in this group hope to play a key role in supporting this privatisation trend and specifically want to be one of the main financiers of the large investments that are expected to be pumped into new projects as well as industrial institutions which will be handed over to the private sector," the report added.

Governments in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) had remained the main players in the

domestic economy until they began considering relying on the private sector when oil prices started to recede.

The private sector still accounts for only 30 to 40 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) but economists expect the level to grow in the near future as most member states have already launched privatisations.

Oman has sold four major industrial and services institutions and is planning to carry out more privatisations as part of wide-ranging reforms that also cover attracting investment and focusing on productive projects.

The UAE has also announced plans to privatise some public utilities while Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, said last month it would press on with the sale of water, electricity and telephone institutions, the first GCC state to do so.

Kuwait, which is still recovering from the 1990 Iraqi invasion, will record a two per cent growth but this is a fraction of the 100 rebuild war-damaged facilities.

Given their limited farming and tourism potential, the industrial sector has remained the focus of the GCC's diversification drive.

According to the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy, industrial investment in the GCC stood at \$40.7 billion at the end of 1993 compared with 37.2 billion in 1991.

terjorate. Governments have tried to offset this by boosting expenditure but this has only complicated their attempts to tackle persistent budget deficits.

Predicting low oil prices in 1994, GCC countries have slashed spending by between five and 20 per cent over 1993 and experts said this would slow down the economies of some members.

According to Henry Azzam, chief economist of the Saudi National Commercial Bank, the kingdom's GDP is forecast to fall by 1.2 per cent in 1994 and Qatar's by 0.6 per cent.

Oman's growth will plunge to one per cent from 12.8 per cent in 1992 and the UAE's to 0.5 per cent from 1.2 per cent.

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Record imports swell U.S. May trade gap

WASHINGTON (R) — Record imports in May boosted the U.S. deficit on trade in goods and services to \$9.17 billion from \$8.53 billion in April, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

Imports grew 1.2 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$65.45 billion while exports were up only 0.2 per cent in May to \$56.27 billion. The resulting trade gap was the highest since \$9.61 billion in February and was well above Wall Street economists' forecasts of an \$8.3 billion shortfall.

The United States typically runs a surplus on trade with other countries in services such as travel and tourism that partly offsets big merchandise trade deficits.

In May, the merchandise deficit climbed to \$14.07 billion from \$13.34 billion in April, the biggest monthly gap since October 1987. At the same time, the surplus on services in May rose only slightly, to \$4.90 billion from \$4.81 billion.

The politically sensitive deficit on trade in goods with Japan was down in May to \$4.39 billion from \$5.48 billion but still accounted for the bulk of the U.S. monthly shortfall.

Clinton administration sources said Monday it was likely trade sanctions will be applied against Japan this month. The United States gave Japan a July 31 deadline to open up its public contracts business for telecommunications and medical technology, but officials said little progress was being made.

World Bank president expects 'enormous change' in activities

WASHINGTON (AP) — After 50 years and \$300 billion in loans, the World Bank president would like to band out less money and be more selective about where it goes.

Lewis Preston said there will be "enormous change" at the world's biggest lender.

Prior to Tuesday's release of a special 50th anniversary World Bank report, Mr. Preston also said the bank is lending more money for environmental projects and basic health and social programmes.

He said the bank's main concern is the world's one billion people who live on less than a dollar a day.

"We have to anticipate enormous change in some of the bank's activities," Mr. Preston said in an interview.

The World Bank was born out of an international conference at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, in July 1944. Its mandate is to help reconstruct and develop the economies of member nations.

Mr. Preston said in the future, the bank will be more inclined to get into partnerships with other lenders and non-government organisations. Despite his vision

of leaner lending and more carefully crafted policies, however, the bank expects to make available another \$200 billion over the next decade.

Critics already were lining up to attack the report and Mr. Preston's view of the world.

"Mr. Preston has proscribed for the bank an expanded role as Global development strategist but any objective look at the bank's history would lead one to conclude that its operations and power must be significantly cut back," said Doug Hellinger of the Fifty Years is Enough campaign.

The campaign accuses the bank of allowing its projects to destroy the environment while "shoving aside the poor."

Mr. Preston, who spent 40 years with one of the world's top private banks, J.P. Morgan, before becoming World Bank president in 1991, says some bank critics are talking ancient history.

He defended the bank against critics who say its 11,000-member staff is over-weight with economists and light on environmentalists

and social scientists.

He said the staff now includes 200 high-level environmentalists with 27 more to be added next year.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 20, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As Mars squares Saturn this morning you will have some problems you don't need but the evening finds you able to overcome obstacles easily and to get on with what is most important in your life.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make certain you handle responsibilities you have in a most precise manner. Engage in your favourite hobby with congeniality.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Use diplomacy instead of forcefulness with loved one at this time. Make long-range plans to have more abundance.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try to please family members and come to a better understanding with them. Take no risks where your reputation is concerned.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to have greater income in the days ahead. Analyse your aims and gain the support you need from others.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Concentrate on how you can be more productive in the future. An intuitive prompting could be erroneous now so don't follow it.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to enlist the help of loyal friends for a new project

you have in mind. Make practical plans for the days ahead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make some needed changes at home so that you have more comfort there. Allow time for recreational activities you enjoy.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to engage in activities that most appeal to you. Adopt a philosophy which can be good for you in the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Try to have more harmonious relations with family members. Make plans which can bring advancement in your career.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Outline projects you want to put in operation in the future. A good time to visit good friends and relatives.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use good sense in handling matters of communication and get excellent results. Make this a worthwhile day for your career.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Enjoy some pleasures you like in the company of congenial friends. Show more devotion to your loved one and express happiness together.

Japan extends \$1.3b aid to S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Japan has announced a \$1.3 billion two-year aid package for South Africa, its largest single aid agreement with an African country.

Ambassador Katsumi Sezaki told president Nelson Mandela that Tokyo was prepared to develop a fresh package if the first was absorbed within two years.

The package includes a \$50 million grant, of which \$30 million will go to the education and health sectors, and \$250 million in soft loans at three per cent interest repayable over 25 years with a seven-year grace period.

Japan's Export-Import Bank will provide united project loans of \$400 million, \$100 million for industrial development and \$500 million in guarantees for commercial and trade-related loans.

Germany guides EU to farm price accord

BRUSSELS (R) — European Union (EU) farm ministers broke a six-month deadlock over farm prices and milk quotas Tuesday, marking an early success for Germany's new EU presidency.

The breakthrough was made after the European Commission conceded some aid for northern French producers of durum wheat, which is used to make pasta, and Germany moderated its own demands after taking over the rotating EU presidency on July 1.

"Durum was a particularly difficult question," German Farm Minister Jochen Borchert told a news conference after a final 10-hour negotiating session.

The annual EU farm price talks, which began in February, have a history of stretching over months, with some all-night sessions as ministers try to extract more money for farmers.

Talks this year were un-

Unemployment in Russia nears 10m

MOSCOW (AFP) — Almost 10 million people are unemployed in Russia, 14.3 per cent of the working population, the Russian labour ministry said Tuesday in figures quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency.

Only 1.3 million people are officially registered as unemployed, but there are another 3.4 million unregistered jobless and five million "partially" unemployed, the agency said.

The last official figures, in May, said nine million people were affected by unemployment. Unemployment had risen in rural areas where a third of the jobless had been without work for more than eight months, the agency said.

Mr. Steichen dismissed the aid as a small concession with little extra cost.

"It's a minor adjustment," he said. "The essence of CAP (common agricultural policy) reform has been preserved."

Mr. Steichen was referring to sweeping reforms agreed on 1992 to get rid of costly grain, beef and butter mountains.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NASDY
ACCOO
CLUMON
TAISER

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: WITH "A" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SEIZE FUSSY ENGULF REVERE
Answer: What overworked trash collectors do — REFUSE REFUSE

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE Daily Crossword by George Ughiant

ACROSS
1 Polyester cloth
5 Dr. — Salk
10 Unappetizing
14 Peen Buck
15 Sun-dried brick
16 Garden of the Gods state
17 Canbean
18 Wanda
19 Varsity
20 Go into
21 Attended
22 Harp
23 Bat first
24 Instruct
25 Like an old woman
26 Strong tool
27 Cartoonist
28 Thomas
29 Zola novel
30 Bat in delay
31 Woodwind
32 Great success
33 — get
34 Garm
35 — home
36 Rained
37 Pose's prey
38 Slow, in music
39 Dressed lushly
40 Food for the gods
41 San Antonio landmark
42 Timid
43 Stevedock novel
44 Alencon's department
45 Tangle
46 — qua non
47 Comedian Fox
48 Lukewarm
49 Marquis de —
50 Unheeding

DOWN
7 Rouge et —
8 Red as —
9 Poem
10 Not playful
11 Same's home?
12 To shelter
13 Urge
14 Mangle
15 Peen
16 Scuba gear
17 Stevedock
18 Legume
19 Military trust
20 Requirement
21 — confederate
22 — day
23 Adam
24 Nara's Dame's city
25 Songwriters
26 Pate's mate
27 Joe Jackson
28 Lay in wait
29 — amas, amos
30 Most sagacious
31 Unheeding
32 Sawyer or
33 Kaston
34 Gymnast
35 Conano
36 Hurry-up
37 acronyms
38 Numerical prefix
39 Ancient

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1. SALT
2. BUCK
3. BRICK
4. GARDEN
5. SALT
6. GARDEN
7. CANBEAN
8. WANDA
9. VARSITY
10. GO INTO
11. ATTENDED
12. HARP
13. BAT FIRST
14. INSTRUCT
15. LIKE AN OLD WOMAN
16. STRONG TOOL
17. CARTOONIST
18. THOMAS
19. ZOLA NOVEL
20. BAT IN DELAY
21. WOODWIND
22. GREAT SUCCESS
23. — GET
24. GARM
25. — HOME
26. RAINED
27. POSE'S PREY
28. SLOW, IN MUSIC
29. DRESSED LUSHLY
30. FOOD FOR THE GODS
31. SAN ANTONIO LANDMARK
32. TIMID
33. STEVEDOCK NOVEL
34. ALENCON'S DEPARTMENT
35. TANGLE
36. — QUAT NON
37. COMEDIAN FOX
38. LUKEWARM
39. MARQUIS DE —
40. UNHEEDING

DOWN
1. POLYESTER CLOTH
2. DR. — SALK
3. UNAPPETIZING
4. PEEN BUCK
5. SUN-DRIED BRICK
6. GARDEN OF THE GODS STATE
7. CANBEAN
8. WANDA
9. VARSITY
10. GO INTO
11. ATTENDED
12. HARP
13. BAT FIRST
14. INSTRUCT
15. LIKE AN OLD WOMAN
16. STRONG TOOL
17. CARTOONIST
18. THOMAS
19. ZOLA NOVEL
20. BAT IN DELAY
21. WOODWIND
22. GREAT SUCCESS
23. — GET
24. GARM
25. — HOME
26. RAINED
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32. TIMID
33. STEVEDOCK NOVEL
34. ALENCON'S DEPARTMENT
35. TANGLE
36. — QUAT NON
37. COMEDIAN FOX
38. LUKEWARM
39. MARQUIS DE —
40. UNHEEDING

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Bangladesh tea hit by stiff competition

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (AFP) — Surplus production and cheap rates on Sri Lankan, Indian and Kenyan markets are worrying Bangladeshi tea traders, officials and reports said Tuesday.

The officials said that Bangladeshi tea exports had registered sharp falls at ongoing auctions and that up to 40 per cent of offerings had been withdrawn.

"Despite a good harvest, we are worried as prices continue to decline by three-to-four takas at each auction this season," said one broker of the current sales round, which began late April.

The price fell to 41.89 taka (\$1.04) per kilogramme from 46.26 taka (\$1.15) in the space of four auctions, he said.

Tea is one of Bangladesh's major exports, worth 1.5 billion taka (\$37.5 million) in the year to June.

"Our tea trade has been seriously affected because of a price fall in international markets, particularly those in Sri Lanka and India," said L.H. Khan, director of National Brokers Ltd.

Mr. Khan said most of traditional buyers of Bangladeshi tea were absent from the auctions, having taken advantage of the lower cost of other countries and causing a "tremendous slide in our prices."

Major buyers Pakistan and Russia took little part in the auctions, while Iran, Jordan, Poland and European countries had not been sighted so far, brokers said.

In Dhaka, the daily Financial Express newspaper said good crops in Sri Lanka, India and Kenya caused tea prices to slump.

Sales on local markets were also down because of rising sugar and milk prices, traders said, while market experts also blamed "quality conscious" consumers for the situation.

A report of the Bangladesh Tea Growers' Association, which represents the country's 151 tea gardens, said that during the first six months of this year production rose to 17,000 tonnes, a jump of 1,500 tonnes on the previous corresponding

Day after World Cup final, Brazilians revel in victory

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — The World Cup may be over, but Brazil's party carried on in high gear Monday.

Some Brazilians struggled back to work after a night of dancing and carnival-like merrymaking following their country's 3-2 victory over Italy Sunday.

But for many die-hard soccer fans, Brazil's first World Cup win in 24 years was a good excuse to keep on celebrating.

Rio's financial district was almost deserted. Only the street cleaners were busy, shoveling mounds of beer cups and confetti from downtown boulevards and beachside avenues.

Along Copacabana Beach, bands of youths wrapped in Brazilian flags cruised up and down the strip in pickup trucks and convertible cars honking horns and screaming "four-time champion."

Street children tied ribbons in the yellow and green colors of Brazil's flag to tree branches in city parks, and sun bathers flocked to Ipanema Beach wearing green-and-yellow bikinis, oandanas and swimming shorts.

As the sun rose over famed Guanahara bay, rock climbers scaled the face of Sugar Loaf Mountain and nailed a green-and-yellow flag to the face of the granite mountain.

Most banks, schools, post offices and stores remained shuttered well past noon. President Itamar Franco declared a half-day holiday for government workers, but none could be seen heading to work, even late Monday afternoon.

Carlos Andre Villela, an army lieutenant, said he was taking the day off.

"I'm calling in sick. This is a very special day, a day of a lifetime," he said.

Those who woke early gathered at newspaper stands to read the gigantic sports headlines or went to church to offer thanks for the victory — and to confess to the excesses committed during the celebrations.

Block-long lines formed outside the emergency ward of one of the city's major hospitals, the Souza Aguiar Hospital. Doctors said most of the patients were revelers who suffered burns from fireworks.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil's biggest city and financial nerve center, some people went to work wearing team shirts with the name of their

favourite player stitched on the back.

In Recife, capital of Pernambuco state on Brazil's northeast coast, officials prepared for team's arrival Tuesday morning for the first of four ticker-tape parades.

The players will then fly to the capital, Brasilia, where the president will present each one with the merit of honour, the country's highest award, and then on to Rio.

In Recife, thousands formed a human chain along Boa Viagem Beach draped in Brazilian flags and wearing green-and-yellow wigs, body paint, glitter and lipstick.

"The party's not over yet, it's just beginning," said Conceicao Monteiro da Silva, a high school student.

Brazil beat Italy 3-2 in a shoot-out of penalty kicks after an overtime game. The victory was particularly satisfying to a country reeling under 45 per cent monthly inflation, corruption scandals and growing urban violence, and where soccer is practically a state religion.

"The Brazilian people who suffered so many social injustices deserve this victory as a tribute to their happiness," Brazilian soccer icon Pele said Sunday.

Proven, itself "the second best team in the world."

"I can't believe all these people have come to thank us," Benarrivo said as he paraded with teammates in front of screaming fans after the 12-hour flight from Los Angeles.

Several players, including midfielders Dino Baggio and Roberto Donadoni and forward Gianfranco Zola, still seemed in shock over Italy's loss.

Donadoni, who frowned most of the time and hung his head low, said some fans were ungrateful.

"We could have been spared some of these remarks," he said, referring to criticism of Sacchi's choice not to play Signori.

Signori, the Italian league's top scorer for the past two seasons, was bubbly over the turnout. "It makes me very happy to see all these people here," he said.

Zola, whose World Cup lasted about 10 minutes after he was sent off in the last 16 minutes against Nigeria, walked away from the squad, his head down.

A fao favourite, the diminutive Sardinian had been eligible to play in the final but, like Signori, was relegated to the bench by Sacchi.

Players in the 22-strong squad were taking a two week vacation before rejoining their clubs to prepare for the new season, which starts in the first week of September.



Brazilian fans form a conga line as they dance Pasadena to celebrate Brazil's World Cup victory (AFP photo)

Sacchi jeered as Italy come home

ROME (R) — Italy's soccer coach Arrigo Sacchi flew home to jeers from disgruntled fans Tuesday when he returned with the team after their defeat to Brazil in the World Cup final.

About 1,000 supporters, some with tears in their eyes, gathered at Rome's Fiumicino Airport to see the squad return from Los Angeles where they went down to the Brazilians 3-2 on penalties Sunday.

The players, many of them looking dejected, received a warm welcome but a group of fans waving banners for Italian club Lazio and chanting "Signori" heckled Sacchi.

In a controversial decision, Sacchi did not play Lazio striker and league top scorer Giuseppe Signori in the final.

"They're ignorant and I've had it up here to with ignorant people," Sacchi told reporters.

"I have no reason to be bitter. Brazil played better than we did and so they deserved to win the World Cup."

Star striker Roberto Baggio, whose missed penalty kick sealed Italy's defeat in the first World Cup decided on a penalty shoot-out, was one of the few players with a smile as he descended from the aircraft.

He blew kisses to the crowd before police escorted him to a mini-van which carried him off to a reunion with friends and relatives.

Midfielder Antonio Benarrivo put a brave face on defeat saying Italy had

proven, itself "the second best team in the world."

"I can't believe all these people have come to thank us," Benarrivo said as he paraded with teammates in front of screaming fans after the 12-hour flight from Los Angeles.

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Americans launch 10-year scheme for U.S. soccer

PASADENA (R) — American soccer chief Alan Rothenberg said Monday he planned to bring the sport up to the same level as American football, basketball and baseball in the U.S. within the next decade.

Rothenberg told a news conference the month-long World Cup which finished Sunday had proved a much bigger success than anyone had expected and had provided the platform for a professional league which is planned to start next April.

Rothenberg, head of the U.S. World Cup organising committee, the American Soccer Federation and the professional league, major league soccer, said most of the U.S. World Cup players would join the new 17 team group next year.

"Everything we do is long-term," he said. "We expect 12,000 to 13,000 average crowds at the start and we will build slowly from that."

"We're not expecting overnight success. It could take 10 years to move our sport to the level of the big ones — football, baseball and basketball."

The last 31 days have

been dream-like. But we're realistic. We realise that the path ahead won't be the instant success it appeared in these 31 days."

Rothenberg said the U.S. team had also gained in respect and had been invited to play at the Maracana Stadium in Rio against world champions Brazil and against England at Soccer Temple Wembley.

"Before we would have had to beg and probably pay them to play us," he said. "Now we're getting that kind of offer."

Rothenberg said television ratings for the World Cup in the United States had been surprisingly high and that an opinion poll by a television network released Sunday showed six in 10 Americans wanted a professional soccer league.

The U.S. soccer chief also announced a four-year sponsorship deal with a fitness and footwear company that would cover American national team squads.

Sunday's final at the Pasadena Rose Bowl, attended by a record crowd of 94,194, had netted around \$43.5 million, he said, a record for any single sporting event.

Crowds at the 52-game tournament topped 3.5 million, more than a million more than at the previous best in Italy four years ago, with the average figure at 70,700.

Applauding the warmth of the fans and the trouble-free atmosphere, Rothenberg said: "What we had was a gigantic love in."

"People had a wonderful time together, enjoying each other's company. That's what's going to stay in my memory. It was a great thing for the U.S. and the world."

FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter said the finals could return in the United States at any time after the next tournament in France in 1998, although he indicated it might not happen in the near future.

He said Asia was likely to get the 2002 finals, for which Japan and South Korea are bidding, and Germany had expressed an interest in 2006.

Blatter said he had spoken to South African representatives Sunday about staging the finals for the first time in Africa in 2006 or later.

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Swedish team back to cheers, flags, praise

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — More than 100,000 fans welcomed home Sweden's national soccer team Monday in a raucous celebration of the team's third-place finish in the World Cup.

Escorted by fighter jets, the players, chartered jetliner landed at Stockholm's Arlanda Airport, where they were greeted by fans, airport workers, sports officials and even the prime minister.

Backed by a military band and brigade of fire trucks, "This performance by the players was among the best ever," Prime Minister Carl Bildt said at a brief airport news conference, surrounded by a tired-looking but excited Swedish team.

After losing the semifinal last week to Brazil 1-0, the team went on to trounce Bulgaria 4-0 on Saturday in the third-place game. It was Sweden's finish since taking second place in 1958 when it lost to Brazil in the final.

"Before interested in (soccer) and one more interested. And afterwards, there is only one group," Bildt said.

The team rode from the airport in open-air cars to a

downtown park for a rally, passing fans waving banners and wrapped in the national blue-and-yellow flags. Helicopters buzzed overhead suspending huge Swedish flags, and planes circled with banners congratulating the team.

Police estimated that 100,000 people in total turned out for the players return, half of whom jammed into the park where they heard speeches and a musical tribute.

When the players finally arrived on stage, they were met with a massive roar: "Sweden, Sweden, Sweden."

Two people were hospitalized for injuries suffered when the crowd pressed toward the stage, wedging them against a fence, police said.

Fifty others were treated in the park for minor injuries.

Despite the cheers, some fans were clearly upset by the semifinal loss — hospitals reported treating an unusually high number of hand injuries last week — from people pounding their fists in frustration.

Still, many were elated that the team had recovered from a disappointing performance in the 1992 European Championship.

FIFA looks for way out of penalty shoot-outs

PASADENA (R) — A sudden-death "golden goal" could decide an unresolved match in the 1998 World Cup.

But FIFA will also consider other ways of avoiding a repeat of the penalty shoot-out which decided Sunday's final, FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter said Monday.

"The problem is we can't play indefinitely, so perhaps a solution could be to add 10 more minutes (after extra time)," he said the day after Brazil beat Italy 3-2 on penalties after regulation and extra time — 120 minutes of soccer in stifling heat — had failed to produce a goal.

Blatter said for the 1998 World Cup in France a system of sudden-death would be introduced in extra time, with a goal — the "golden goal" — ending the match and deciding the winner.

But if no goals were scored in extra time, the game would still have to be decided by a penalty shoot-out.

He said FIFA, soccer's world governing body, would consider further possibilities but he personally would prefer not to extend the game beyond 120 minutes, particularly in conditions like those which prevailed for USA '94.

"Yesterday it would not have been possible to add more time because, in these conditions, playing for more than two hours would affect the health of the players," he said.

If no goal fell in extra time, teams should accept the penalty shoot-out, Blatter added.

"We were not happy yesterday... but we had to have a winner and you can't repeat the match."

Choosing the winner on the strength of corners won or fewer bookings would also be unsatisfactory, he said.

FIFA has already introduced "sudden-death" in youth competition. It is used in Japan and the European Football Union (UEFA) will operate it at the 1996 European championship in England.

FIFA would also study further future options, consulting players, coaches and the media, Blatter said.

"At the moment we can offer nothing better," he said, looking back sadly on Sunday's penalty shoot-out which resolved the World Cup final between Brazil and Italy, though he would rather have had the sudden-death option.

"We expected these two brilliant teams would give us a brilliant performance. They gave it, but only in extra time and in the penalty shoot-out," Blatter said.



Swedish captain Jonas Thern watches as referee Jose Torres Cadena gives him a red card for a foul during a semifinal match (AFP photo)

FIFA crackdown on foul play hits both players, referees

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — If not for anything else, the 1994 World Cup will be remembered as the tournament where FIFA took no prisoners in its fight against foul play.

Yellow cards were up by almost a third on Italia '90 and although dismissals from red cards were much the same as four years ago, transgressors felt the full weight of judicial retribution.

Italian defender Mauro Tassotti created World Cup history when he became the first player suspended after trial by video.

In a decision that even Tassotti's bloodied Spanish victim Luis Enrique called excessive, the 34-year-old AC Milan rightback was banned for eight matches, effectively ending his international playing days.

"We decided we had to make an example of him," said Disciplinary Committee chairman Marcel Mathier, whose panel reviewed the videotape 10 times before reaching its decision.

Defender Leonardo missed out on Brazil's first World Cup final in 24 years when he was booted out for four matches for elbowing U.S. midfielder Tah Ramos in a second round game.

Ramos was concussed and detained overnight in hospital with a hairline fracture of the skull sidelining him for between three to six months.

Romanian forward Ion Vladiu's World Cup ended in ignominy when he was sent home after incurring a three-match ban for a wild high challenge on Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat. He had only been on the field for three minutes as a second half substitute.

Conversely, there were dismissals that looked harsh. Sometime nervous match officials obeyed FIFA's foul play edict to the letter. The red-carding of Sweden captain

Jonas Thern is a case in point with his innocuous-looking challenge on Brazilian Dunga in the semifinals.

FIFA trumpeted that never before had referees been more intensively drilled in preparation for a World Cup.

In a release at the start of the tournament, the sport's governing body said: "The 1994 World Cup symbolises a new generation of younger, more dynamic match officials — not just outwardly recognisable by their colourful, stylish uniforms, but by their readiness to implement the laws more positively."

"That means, quite simply, encouraging attacking play and shielding creative genius on the field more effectively from technically inferior opponents, who delve in dirty tricks to stop it."

FIFA used its same zealous accountability for its match officials, shipping home those they deemed unacceptable at World Cup level.

Highly-regarded Swiss referee Kurt Roelischberger, rated by some observers as a favourite to officiate in the final, was unceremoniously sent packing after denying Belgium's Josip Weber an apparent penalty in their 3-2 second round loss to Germany in Chicago.

"Roelischberger had been one of the best referees in the competition, but he will not referee again in the tournament," said FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter.

FIFA, stung by criticism of refereeing standards at Italia '90 with even Blatter then among the loudest to complain, took measures to ensure there would be no repeat in the United States.

"There is more fair play on the field," said Blatter. "The referees have strictly implemented the laws of the game and we are very satisfied with the performances of the referees and linesmen."

Magic moments at World Cup '94

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Whether it was Diego Maradona's drug ban, Roberto Baggio's last minute goals, or Firdi George's celebratory bark, there was something to interest everyone at World Cup '94.

Russia's Oleg Salenko pulled out the stops against Cameroon to score a record five goals in one World Cup match when they won 6-1 in their group. But that was not enough to qualify following losses to Brazil and Sweden.

Saudi Arabia took over Cameroon's pioneering mantle from the last World Cup. Cameroon moved through to the quarterfinals in 1990 to become the first African nation ever to go that far. This time, the Saudis became the first Asian nation to make the second round of the World Cup since North Korea managed it in 1966.

And striker Saeed Owairan's fifth minute solo goal, eventually enough to beat Belgium and qualify from Group F, was Maradona-like in its quality.

Owairan began the move inside his own half, beat four opponents before shooting past the advancing Michel Preud'homme from 12 metres. It was the first goal the Belgian goalkeeper had conceded.

Roberto Baggio's goals under extreme pressure finally closed the debate on

whether he can produce his genius when it matters.

In the second round, Nigeria were only two minutes away from an historic win when the World and European player of 1993 struck.

And 10 minutes into extra time, Baggio lobbed a ball into the path of Antonio Benarrivo, who was knocked down by Augustine Eguwuen. Baggio strode up and hit the spot kick home off the post.

Baggio scored the best goal of the 1990 tournament against Czechoslovakia, and his goal against Spain in the quarterfinal was similarly magical.

At 1-1 in the 87th minute, Giuseppe Signori hooked the ball into the Baggio's path. Baggio rounded keeper Andoni Zubizarreta and shot home from an acute angle as Spanish defender Abelardo desperately tried to block at the near post.

Two goals midway through the first half against Bulgaria in a 2-1 semifinal victory further increased the stature of this Juventus star.

Giantkillers Bulgaria carried on the shocks at the finals following their dramatic qualification last November when Emil Kostadinov scored with 10 seconds remaining against France to knock out the 1982 and 1986 semifinalists.



Roberto Baggio

In the knockout stages, wins over Argentina and Germany, which included a stunning freekick from Hristo Stoichkov, earned them a semifinal spot.

On the down side, Maradona was banned after testing positive in a drugs test. Brazilian Leonardo was suspended for four matches for elbowing American Tah Ramos in the left temple, and FIFA slapped a massive eight-match ban on Italian Mauro Tassotti after he broke Spaniard Luis Enrique's nose.

On a lighter note, the prize for trying to make the most of a bad situation must go to Mexican keeper Jorge Campos.

In the second round against Bulgaria, the back of his goal collapsed and Campos urged the referee to keep the game going while a microphone stand held up one side of the net. However the ref would not agree and the goal was eventually replaced.

And footballers were still going down like flies in near death throes after being fouled, despite FIFA guidelines to caution a player feigning injury. And there were many times when a player was carried off on a stretcher for treatment, only to run around like a deer a few minutes later.

As for "woofers" at the World Cup, Greece, who conceded 10 goals and scored none in defeats by Argentina, Bulgaria and Nigeria must take the prize.

Had they oobed some third generation Greeks off the streets of America, they may not have done worse.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil win is not official

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Brazil's World Cup victory won't show up in the official record. The championship victory over Italy Sunday came in a shootout, and that means that the final standings show Brazil and Italy tied in the last game and no losses. The only unbeaten team in the tournament, according to statistics released by FIFA, soccer's governing body, Italy was second on the official list, at 4-2-1. Tiebreaker shootouts don't count as a victory or loss in the standings, and goals scored in the penalty don't count for an individual's tournament total. That means that — despite getting a goal in the shootout — Brazil's Romario finished with five goals, one less than World Cup leaders Oleg Salenko of Russia and Hristo Stoichkov of Bulgaria.

Brazil top of the polls

LOS ANGELES (APF) — Brazil not only won the World Cup a record fourth time Sunday, they were also the fairest and most entertaining. Brazil topped FIFA's fair play table ahead of the Netherlands, Sweden and Italy and according to a U.S. poll were the most entertaining side ahead of Nigeria, Italy and Bulgaria. "It goes to show that you can be fair-play and win," FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter said here Monday. He said there were eight fouls less per match on USA 94 than there had been in Italy four years ago.

Cup to set record TV audience

NEW YORK (AP) — Brazil's shootout victory over Italy in the World Cup final got a 12.4 overnight rating, Nielsen Media Research said Monday, and probably will wind up with a record soccer audience for U.S. television. The overnight rating, taken from samplings of 32 major markets, topped the 10.2 overnight rating for the United States' second-round loss to Brazil on July 4. That game wound up with a 9.3 national rating, the current record for soccer on U.S. television. The national rating for Sunday's final will be released Thursday. Sunday's game, telecast by the ABC network, got a 29 share, swamping the opposition on the CBS and ABC networks. The American Senior Open on CBS got a 2.3 rating and a 5 share, and Big Apple Classic women's tournament on ABC got a 1.3 rating and a 3 share. The rating is the percentage of the television households in the nation watching a programme and the share is the percentage among televisions on at the time. ABC figures to wind up with an average rating of between 5.0 and 6.0 for 11 telecasts, above what U.S. World Cup organizer Alan Rothenberg said was the network's pre-World Cup projection of 4.0-4.5. The next scheduled soccer telecast on U.N. network television is a year away: The final of the new soccer league Rothenberg says he will launch in 1995.

Race not an issue at Simpson's trial

LOS ANGELES (APF) — O.J. Simpson's lawyer said race will not be an issue at the upcoming murder trial of the former U.S. football star, although he will try to show that police police allegedly planted a bloody glove at his client's house. "Race is not and will not be an issue in this defense," Robert Shapiro said Monday. The defense attorney was responding to allegations made Sunday in the New Yorker magazine that he would attempt to prove that racism had prompted detective Mark Fuhrman, who is white, to plant a bloody glove at the Los Angeles home of the former football star, who is black. The glove, the prosecution's strongest evidence, matched one found June 12 a few miles away at the murder site of Simpson's former wife Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and her friend Ronald Goldman, 25, both of whom were also white. Fuhrman has denied having planted the glove. Simpson, 47, has pleaded not guilty to the double murder and is being held without bail. He is scheduled to be arraigned Friday.

Luge champion injured in lightning flash

VIENNA (R) — Luge World Cup holder Markus Prock suffered minor injuries after he was thrown by the force of a bolt of lightning as he was mountaineering, the Austrian APA news agency reported Tuesday. Austria's Olympic luge silver medalist, was one of a group of five climbers descending the Grossglockner, Austria's highest mountain, when they were caught in a thunder storm. The blast from a bolt of lightning which struck nearby threw Prock and a woman companion, who were roped to the rest of the group, onto a rock wall 20 metres below the path they had been on. Prock suffered a broken nose and bruises to his leg. His companion was only slightly hurt. "Both were very lucky," the head of the mountain air rescue team which brought the pair down said. "If they had not been roped together they would have fallen 400 metres."

GOREN BRIDGE

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TRUMP CUP TOMMY AT THE NATIONALS

North-South vulnerable. South deal.

NORTH
♠ 3
♥ A Q 10 7 3
♦ 7
♣ K 8 6 3

EAST
♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ K 9 6 5
♦ 10 8 3
♣ Q 10 5

SOUTH
♠ A K 5
♥ 4 2
♦ A K 3 9 4
♣ 7

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

With the Summer North American Championships being held only a few hours drive away, Trump Cup Tommy decided to organize a team to play in the Spingold Knock-out Team Championship. As our readers will know, Tommy was a rather ordinary player who had the ability to rise to great heights when trumps broke badly.

No opening bid other than two no trump even entered Tommy's mind. After all, if he opened one diamond

partner might pass (or get to play the hand) when game could be claimed. North made a four-level transfer into hearts then asked for aces and bid the small slam on learning that North-South possessed all four.

West started the top of the club sequence, won in the closed hand with the ace. Tommy led a trump and the appearance of the king from West was, to him, a sight for sore eyes. Now there was the danger of two trump losers and Tommy's peculiar skills were hosed to laser-beam sharpness.

After winning the ace of hearts, the king of clubs was cashed followed by a club ruff. The two top spades were cashed and a spade was ruffed. When declarer next played off two top diamonds, discarding the last club from dummy, East tried to give Tommy a wrong impression of the hand by dropping the queen. But Tommy needed to shorten dummy's trump holding once more and had no alternative other than to ruff a diamond.

With North and East now both down to nothing but three trumps, Tommy settled with the eight of hearts. East was forced to win with the nine, but then had to lead a trump away from the jack into the table's Q 10. Making six odd!

Don King says indictment proves 'how good I am'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Boxing promoter Don King said Monday his recent indictment on charges that he schemed to file false insurance claims, proves "how good I really am."

The flamboyant promoter with the electric-shock hair indicted Thursday by a Manhattan federal jury on nine counts of wire fraud in connection with a cancelled 1991 fight between Julio Cesar Chavez and Harold Brazier.

King, 62, who now lives in Florida after years in the Cleveland area, faces a possible maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each of the counts.

"I'm not even thinking about that right now," King said when asked about the indictment. "You know what I'm doing? Selling fights."

Part of King's sales pitch Monday was the announcement that he has signed Michael Carbajal, a former 1988 Olympic gold medalist and current World Boxing Council (WBC) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior flyweight champion, to his stable of fighters.

King has dominated boxing for years beginning with his promotion of Muhammad Ali in the 1970s and recently with Mike Tyson before Tyson went to prison for rape.

King, in his typical rambling style that uses every opportunity to cloak the promoter in patriotism, managed to involve Paul Revere and the Declaration of Independence on Monday as often as he did boxing.

"I am completely innocent," King said at a news conference. "I've been under indictment all my life, brother. This is what demonstrates how good I really am."

King's latest legal problems stem from the planned Chavez-Brazier fight, for which King had a \$750,000 cancellation insurance policy with Lloyd's of London.

King was injured in sparring and the fight was cancelled. King is charged with devising a scheme to defraud the insurers by filing false documents alleging losses from the cancellation.

King has had numerous legal troubles, including a 1984 indictment on 23 counts of federal tax evasion for allegedly skimming more than \$1 million from Don King Productions, of which he is president. He was acquitted of all charges in 1985.

He was convicted of manslaughter in 1967 and served four years in prison. He also was judged in 1954 to have killed a man in self-defence.

Judge upholds NBA draft, salary cap

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Basketball Association's (NBA) salary cap, college draft and right of first refusal have been declared legal by a fed-up judge who urged the league and its players to stay out of court in the future.

Monday's decision by U.S. district judge Kevin Duffy was in line with previous rulings giving professional sports wide latitude to work out labour agreements outside of some laws limiting other businesses.

Duffy downplayed the legal significance, noting the issue had been in federal court at least three times before and saying he was "convinced... neither party cares about this litigation or the result."

"Both are simply using the court as a bargaining chip in the collective bargaining process," he said.

The ruling freed teams to immediately resume signing contracts with players, a practice that had been stopped by the court pending resolution of the dispute.

Duffy rejected the NBA players association's argument that the salary cap violated antitrust law, saying the NBA was not subject to the law as long as it has a collective bargaining relationship with the union.

Duffy criticised the NBA's lawyers for "sharp and shady practices of the type that most ethical lawyers shun" for filing its lawsuit as a pre-emptive strike because the union had threatened to sue.

Promising everything was now open to negotiation, NBA Deputy Commissioner Russ Granik said he hoped "now the players will come back to the bargaining table so we can move forward."

Buck Williams of the Portland Trail Blazers, president of the NBA players association, said: "The most important point that judge Duffy wanted to make is he wants us to settle this thing at the collective bargaining table. It may take a good while, but eventually that's what's going to happen."

The players plan to appeal. "Very quickly," promised Frederick Schwartz Jr., a lawyer for the players.

Duffy urged both sides to bargain. "No court, no matter how highly situated, can replace this time-honoured manner of labour dispute resolution," he said. "Rather than clogging the courts with unnecessary litigation, the parties should pursue this course."

Since the salary cap was put in place in 1982 as several teams faced financial problems, player salaries and benefits have soared from \$79.6 million to \$535 million as league revenues leaped from \$135.2 million to \$945 million. The formula distributes 53 per cent of the NBA's gross revenues equally among the teams.

The right of first refusal allows a team to prevent a free-agent player with fewer than four seasons from going elsewhere if it matches the salary terms offered by the new team.

Duffy's ruling followed a one-day trial last week that featured testimony from Buck Williams, Dominique Wilkins and Danny Manning. The players testified that restrictions on the players prevented them from full employment despite multimillion-dollar salaries. Last season, Williams made \$4.7 million, Wilkins \$3.3 million and Manning \$3.2 million.

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Moroccan parliament demands shakeup after World Cup debacle

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — After the failure, the blame: Morocco's parliament is demanding heads for the soccer team's 0-3 record in the World Cup, considered a national humiliation.

The critics, supported by press and public opinion, are picking apart the team's training and coach Abdullah Blinda's tactics and demanding that the Royal Soccer Federation's leaders be fired.

Sports Minister Driss Alaoui M'Daghri was forced to defend himself last Friday saying that his ministry "cannot interfere in the selection of players or the coach's tactical choices."

The deputies informed the minister that millions were "bitterly disappointed after Morocco's debacle," according to press reports of the encounter.

They demanded that the North African country's physical education and sports organisation and infrastructure be thoroughly overhauled.

Morocco's poor showing symbolised the recent decline of soccer in Arab north Africa, which once dominated the continent, to black sub-Saharan countries like Cameroon and Nigeria.

Morocco lost 1-0 to Belgium, 2-1 to Saudi Arabia and 2-1 to the Netherlands.

Buchwald heads for Japan

FUKUOKA, Japan (APF) — German international Guido Buchwald joined the Urawa Red Diamonds, currently last in Japanese football's J-League, here Tuesday. The 33-year-old former Stuttgart defender, a member of Germany's 1990 World Cup winning squad, played three games in the United States during this year's event. Buchwald, who signed an 18-month contract, is expected to make his Japanese debut in a knock-out tournament starting July 27.

Meola switches brands of football

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) — Tony Meola, the only player on the U.S. soccer team who could touch the ball with his hands, is now a kicker for American football's New York Jets.

The 25-year-old was one of the most high profile members of the U.S. team that made history by reaching the second round of the World Cup.

A national team member since 1989, he is among the team leaders in all-time appearances in international matches and held the eventual champions from

Brazil scoreless for the first 73 minutes of the U.S. 1-0 loss in the second round of the World Cup.

In June, Meola said this would be his final World Cup. At the time, he said he still might be willing to play in the pro league that's supposed to start in the United States in April.

He left the door open, however, should his NFL career fail. "Maybe after a while, my flame will be rekindled, and I'll come back," he said.

Meola started 18 matches for the United States in 1993 with seven shutouts, including a 2-0 victory over England in the U.S. Cup '93.

Lalas ponders move to Coventry

LONDON (R) — U.S. World Cup defender Alexi Lalas is considering a \$500,000 (\$782,000) move to the English premier league side Coventry.

Manager Phil Neal and chairman Bryan Richardson met goatee-bearded Lalas in Los Angeles at the weekend and Coventry hope to finalise a deal within a fortnight.

Lalas, whose wild appearance turned him into something of a celebrity, is wanted to partner £3 million (£4.7 million) rated Ireland centre-

back Phil Babb, who is set to stay with Coventry despite the interest of Blackburn, Liverpool and Everton.

"He is one of the players we are thinking about, but there is still some business to be done," said Neal, who recently collected £800,000 (\$1.25 million) from Sheffield Wednesday for Peter Atherton. Lalas is due at Wembley with the United States for a friendly against England Sept. 7, but Coventry hope to make it a more permanent stay.

'Dream Team II' comes together

WASHINGTON (APF) — "Dream Team II" is ready for all challengers, even their Olympic basketball championship namesakes.

"They all should start praying because we're coming full force," said forward Derrick Coleman, one of 12 National Basketball Association (NBA) players who will represent the United States at next month's world championships in Toronto.

Practice opens Wednesday at Chicago. This team has no players from the 1992 Olympic championship squad, which included Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird. That "Dream Team" was an older generation, but the newest group has no problem competing with the memory.

"We would kill them," Coleman said. "Jordan's playing baseball. Magic is an owner. Larry Bird is missing in action. They've lost their concept of playing the game."

The U.S. must instead worry about 15 rivals, including opening pool foes Brazil, Spain and China. Other first-round groups include Croatia, Australia, Cuba and South Korea; Canada, Russia, Angola and Argentina; Germany, Greece, Egypt and Puerto Rico.

"It's exciting. People from all around the world are playing for bragging rights in basketball," said centre Alonzo Mourning of Charlotte. "You're playing for a true world championship."

The U.S. roster includes Mourning and Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal at centre,

forwards Coleman of New Jersey, Shawn Kemp of Seattle, Larry Johnson of Charlotte and Dominique Wilkins of the Los Angeles Clippers plus guards Joe Dumars of Detroit, Kevin Johnson of Phoenix, Reggie Miller of Indiana, Mark Price of Cleveland and Steve Smith of Miami.

Detroit's Isiah Thomas and Tim Hardaway of Golden State were selected but injured and cannot compete. "I was overwhelmed to be chosen," Coleman said. "It means you've proven you're one of the league's top players."

C.M. Newtown, USA Basketball's director, hopes the team awakens U.S. fans the way the U.S. World Cup team did for football.

"You're not talking about an all-star team," he said.

"You're talking about assembling a team to play in competition. People in the United States have no understanding of the magnitude of the world championships. It's like World Cup or the NBA finals."

Other NBA players at the world championships will include Dino Radja and Toni Kukoc for Croatia, Canada's Rick Fox, Germany's Detlef Schrempf and Australia's Andrew Gaze, who played briefly for Washington last season.

The U.S. team is favoured. About the only concern is how the top NBA players will work together.

"I don't think anybody is going to have an ego problem," Coleman said. "We have a lot of players who are leaders of their teams. We should be all right."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

'Israelis do not own Egyptian land'

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Agriculture Minister Yusef Wali on Tuesday denied charges that Israelis own agricultural land in Egypt. "There is not one foot of agricultural land in Egypt owned by Israelis," Mr. Wali, who is also Egypt's deputy prime minister, said. He said Egypt's agricultural ties with Israel were limited to drawing on Israeli experience in land reclamation and importing transplants of "good vegetables and fruits." Mr. Wali was speaking to 1,500 clerics from around Egypt meeting here for their first conference which opened on Sunday. He also denied that Egypt was planning to extend water from the Nile River to Israel in answer to rumours which have circulated here since late President Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Mr. Wali said such a plan was impossible because Egypt shared the water with nine other countries and it could not add another to the list. Mr. Wali came under sharp attacks earlier this year when he told parliament that Egypt was cooperating closely with Israel to improve its fruit production.

Arafat makes first public appearance in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Yasser Arafat and his wife, Suha, made their first public appearance together since arriving here last week when they greeted the Palestinian leader's 50 adopted Palestinian children on Tuesday. The couple embraced the children as they welcomed them at the seafont Palestine Hotel. The children, whose fathers were killed in operations against Israel, arrived Monday from Tunis to settle in the self-rule region of Gaza. Since returning for good last week, Mr. Arafat has devoted his time to meetings with senior aides, his new "government" and popular delegations. Suha, meanwhile, has set her own agenda seeing women's groups and journalists in her home close to the hotel in Gaza City.

German jailed for Scud sale to Iraq

AUGSBURG (AFP) — The owner of a German engineering company was sentenced by a court here Tuesday to five and a half years in jail for illegally supplying Iraq with spare parts for Scud missiles. Anton Eyerle, 70, owner of the Rhein-Bayern-Fahrzeug company in the southern town of Kaufbeuren was found guilty of illegally trafficking in weapons. His company was charged with selling the Iraqi regime military equipment worth 30 million marks (\$8.7 million) beginning in 1987. Mr. Eyerle had maintained his innocence throughout his trial which began last August saying he knew nothing of the weapons sales which he blamed on two of his assistants. The Iraqi government during the trial had sent a letter to the United Nations confirming the purchase of firing parts for some 1,000 missiles from Mr. Eyerle's company.

Firms seek to build Mideast's first toll highway

BEIRUT (AFP) — French and German firms are competing to build an estimated \$500-million highway from Beirut to the Syrian border which would be the region's first toll road, a Lebanese official said. They have formed the consortiums Bouygues-SCREG, Dumez-GTM, Walter Bau, Dyckreloff and Widman, Weys and Freytag AG and Camponen Bernard SGE, according to head of the Great Projects in Lebanon, Mohammad Fawaz. The 62-kilometre highway will stretch from Beirut's eastern suburb of Haddath through the mountains to Masnaa on the border with Syria, he said. The consortium which wins the contract will both finance and build the highway over an undetermined number of years, Mr. Fawaz said.

Sifi to visit Spain for economic talks

TUNIS (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi will visit Spain on Wednesday for talks expected to focus on economic cooperation between Madrid and Algiers. Algerian state radio said on Tuesday, Mr. Sifi will be accompanied by the ministers of finance, energy and industry, the radio, monitored in Tunis, said. Mr. Sifi last month visited Brussels, Paris, Rome, Saudi Arabia and Egypt seeking support for his country, which has been battered by a deep economic crisis partly as a result of 30 months of civil strife blamed by the government on Islamists. Mr. Sifi is expected to meet Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. He will also deliver a letter from President Liamine Zeroual to King Juan Carlos, the radio said.

Pay dispute halts Rajiv Gandhi trial

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The trial of 26 people charged with murdering former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi more than three years ago has ground to a halt with defence lawyers demanding higher fees, newspapers said Tuesday. Lawyers representing 10 of the defendants have boycotted the proceedings since July 12 over a pay dispute, the Times of India and other newspapers reported from Madras, the Tamil Nadu city where the trial is taking place. Defence lawyers are demanding payment equal to that received by the public prosecutors, they said. The judge presiding over the trial, which opened in January and is closed to the public and the press, adjourned the case until July 25. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in a Tamil Nadu town on May 21, 1991 when a woman believed to be a Sri Lankan Tamil approached him during a campaign rally and detonated explosives strapped to her waist. Sixteen Sri Lankan Tamils and 10 Indians are on trial in Madras in connection with the murder.

Thai court accepts suit against U.S. diplomats

BANGKOK (AFP) — The Thai criminal court agreed Tuesday to hold a preliminary hearing into a suit by a Thai deputy who accused U.S. diplomats of defaming him by linking him to drug trafficking. A court official said a hearing was scheduled on August 29 into Wattana Asavahem's complaint against U.S. Ambassador David Lambertson and John Reid, director of the U.S. Information Services. The U.S. embassy said it had no immediate comment. A lawyer contacted by AFP said it was likely that lawyers for Mr. Lambertson and Mr. Reid would argue during the pre-examination hearing that the two were covered by diplomatic immunity, which normally shields diplomats from legal action. On July 1, USIS issued a statement saying that Mr. Wattana, deputy leader of the Chart Thai party, had been refused a visa on suspicion he currently or previously had ties to "illicit trafficking of controlled substances." Mr. Wattana hotly denied the allegation and threatened the following day to sue U.S. President Bill Clinton, the U.S. Ambassador in Bangkok and USIS for conspiring to defame a member of parliament.

Third round of Sudan peace talks opens

NAIROBI (AFP) The third round of peace talks between Sudan's Islamic government and mainly Christian southern rebels opened here on Tuesday, with Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi urging delegates to use this session to bring peace to war-torn southern Sudan. Addressing delegates from the Khartoum government and the two factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) at State House here before declaring the talks open, Mr. Moi warned that the people of Sudan had had enough troubles and now deserved to have peace. "It is my sincere yearning and sincere hope that this round will break new grounds and finally give the people of Sudan the peace and development they so much deserve," Mr. Moi told delegates. The talks are the latest in a series of efforts to broker a peace settlement to the conflict by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), grouping Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

Jerash Festival opened

THEIR MAJESTIES King Hussein and Queen Noor on Tuesday open the 13th Jerash Festival by lighting a torch at the ancient Greco-Roman city which will host the two-week event. The festival's director general, Akram Masarweh, said he expected this year's festival to be distinguished, particularly that the Jerash-Amman road is now open for traffic after a several-year closure for expansion. The festival will feature art, cultural and literary activities held in all areas of the city with the several foreign troupes participating in the annual event (Petra photo)



U.N. split again over Iraq sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council has decided to maintain sanctions against Iraq but with Russia and the United States differing sharply on how to handle lifting oil sanctions in the future.

Russia took the lead for countries such as France, China and Brazil which at minimum wanted the 15-member body to issue a statement saying Iraq had made progress in complying with weapons demands, which are linked to lifting the oil embargo.

But the United States, backed by Britain and others, again spoke strongly against any statement as well as taking steps toward considering a change in the sanctions regime.

The division in the 15-member body is so severe that, in the words of council President Jamsheed Marker, "no consensus" was reached in issuing any statement or comments.

While a statement acknowledging progress does not lift

sanctions, it has become symbolic of an attitude towards Iraq when the issue becomes more relevant next year.

Under a 1991 ceasefire resolution, U.N. officials must certify that Iraq has destroyed its weapons of mass destruction. Arms officials will not do this until about March, when they finish testing a long-term monitoring programme to ensure Iraq does not reacquire proscribed weapons.

Iraq has been under sanctions since its troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The ceasefire resolutions say the oil embargo is to be lifted after certain weapons-related conditions are met. The United States and Britain want to add more conditions for lifting the oil embargo.

Russia, China, France and others say the resolutions ties only disarmament to lifting the oil embargo and that the council must abide by its own decisions.

In contrast, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright in-

terprets the 1991 resolution broadly, saying there must be a pattern of compliance on many other issues in addition to disarmament.

But all members agreed that before any sanctions are lifted, Iraq must recognise Kuwait and its borders.

Diplomats said Oman, Djibouti and Nigeria believed the council should make the borders a priority rather than discussing the oil embargo or disarmament.

Russian Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov went further than just asking for a statement, saying the council should establish a "limited-term deadline" to consider the oil embargo if there was full compliance on weapons.

He said there was a need to set "clearer procedures" once violators comply with council demands.

In an apparent criticism of Washington, he questioned the legality of "attempts to oppose this principle for political reasons" or "to stretch formulated provisions of security council resolutions."

Ms. Albright, in a written copy of her remarks to the council, accused Iraq of being "sporadic, selective and opportunistic" in its cooperation with U.N. arms inspectors. Even Iraq's apparent cooperation on weapons would stop once Baghdad was able to sell oil again, she added.

"It is clearly premature to begin a serious discussion of whether we can be satisfied that Iraq's intentions are peaceful," she said. "It would be premature to discuss the terms or timing of modifying the council's regime of sanctions against Iraq."

The council, which holds a regular review of the Iraq sanctions every two months, met in a closed session and did not take a vote.

All members agreed it was essential for Iraq to recognise Kuwait's boundary and its sovereignty, President Marker said.

But for the past six months the council has been unable

to agree on the language to use in stating that sanctions will remain in place.

Ambassador Vorontsov called it "inexplicable from the point of view of logic and common sense" not to acknowledge Iraq's progress. Mr. Vorontsov said the Security Council should set a time-frame for lifting the crippling sanctions.

He acknowledged that Russia and other nations have "important economic and financial interests" in Iraq, fueling the desire to lift the oil embargo.

U.N. weapons inspectors say Iraq has made significant progress in eliminating its potential for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons as well as longer-range ballistic missiles.

On Friday, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said Baghdad had made "great achievements" in satisfying terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire. He called on the Security Council to lift the oil embargo.

Yemen government urges Aden people to work

ADEN (Agencies) — Yemen's government urged Aden residents on Tuesday to return to work and help restore normal life to the city, where offices were looted at the end of a two-month civil war and people still suffer water and food shortages.

Government ministries urged restaurants and bakeries to open or risk losing their licences. They also called on doctors and nurses to return to hospitals and clinics.

The Commerce Ministry said it would provide the bakeries with flour and water in the next two days and from Tuesday would start selling rice, vegetable oil and flour to the city's half a million people.

Residents say most of people were not going to work because they were too busy hunting for water and food.

Most offices and institutions here stripped bare by a wave of looting. Transport is difficult because of a petrol shortage.

"How can we go back to work when we spend almost all day at water wells and looking for food. Offices are bare of furniture. We have

other worries than going to work," said one resident.

Shopowners are reluctant to open their businesses for fear of more looting although residents said the rampage has eased. Banks are still shut, but the central bank has opened.

The Sanaa government's forces captured Aden on July 7, crushing a southern bid to break from four years of unity with the north. It is now trying to consolidate its administrative and security hold on the city and restore normal life.

It has imposed a night curfew which will be enforced until Aug. 5 and sealed off the city except for its residents. Relief workers and ambulances from Sunday night for one week to crack down on lawlessness and looting.

The government had ordered employees at Aden's refinery and power station to report to work as an urgent measure. Red Cross teams and government workers are trying to repair damaged water pipelines.

Residents said some water was restored to taps in a few

districts on Monday, but that was only 20 per cent of the total city supply. Relief workers say the damage to water stations and pipelines was extensive and repairs would take weeks.

The Yemeni port authority said in a statement that all the country's ports, including Aden and Mukalla, were back to working normally.

Most government ministers, who met in Aden last week, went back to Sanaa on Sunday.

Southern leaders who fled abroad at war's end have accused the north of punishing Aden with the curfew, shortages and human rights violations.

A U.N. official said the United Nations has set aside \$2.65 million worth of mainly food and medicines to help alleviate the effects of Yemen's two-month civil war.

U.N. agencies coordinator Awni Al Ani told AFP a first batch of 150 tonnes of food will be handed out in the next two days in the southern Yemeni provinces which

(Continued on page 7)

FIS denounces kidnap of Arab ambassadors

PARIS (Agencies) — Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has condemned the kidnapping of two Arab ambassadors in Algeria and blamed the incident on the government.

"The FIS parliamentary delegation condemns the kidnapping of the two ambassadors and holds the totalitarian establishment entirely responsible for the decadent situation in Algeria" and "for all kinds of violations of human rights in the country," a statement received here Tuesday said.

Omani Ambassador Hilla Ben Salem Al Siyabi and his Yemeni counterpart, Ali Askar, were kidnapped Friday in the Islamic stronghold of Khemis El Kechna east of the Algerian capital. They were with a member of the Yemen Socialist Party politburo, Mohammad Kassem Essour, and the Omani's Moroccan driver who were kidnapped with them.

There have been no claims of responsibility for the abductions, and police have given no details on their search for the diplomats.

But the disappearance of the four men follows a spate of killings of foreigners that

raised fears that militants were stepping up their campaign of violence against Algeria's secular military-backed government.

The FIS statement was issued in English and signed by Anwar Haddam, president of the FIS parliamentary delegation who lives in exile in the United States.

It said the "FIS recognises in this new episode of violence in Algeria the fingerprint of the bloody junta," charging that the regime's "aim is to isolate the Algerian people from their natural ally, the Arab World."

The statement called on the international community "to isolate the military regime in Algeria and to support the struggle of the Algerian people for their freedom and for their right to freely elect their political representatives."

The comment was a reference to the cancellation by the military regime in January 1992 of elections which the FIS was poised to win.

The FIS was banned following the poll, whose cancellation sparked a fundamentalist guerrilla campaign against government

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N. Korea bids emotional farewell to Kim

SEOUL (Agencies) — North Koreans bade an emotional farewell to Kim Il-Sung on Tuesday, wailing and weeping as the red, flag-draped coffin of the world's last Stalinist leader made its final journey through the streets of Pyongyang.

An estimated two million mourners lined the streets as the funeral cortege wound slowly around the showcase city Kim built — from the marble hall, where the body of the "great leader" had lain in state, to Kim Il-Sung Square.

The wail of "great leader, come back from the dead," could be heard over the breaking voice of a Pyongyang radio commentator. Monitors here said, as the outside world saw only what North Korea wanted it to see in controlled TV feeds from the rigidly isolated state.

Kim Jong-Il, the late president's bespectacled and reclusive son and heir-apparent, dressed in a somber Mao suit, a black mourning band on his arm, officiated at the last rites before

the hier emerged from the gloom of the hall into the streets.

At his side in the marble-lined Kumsusan Hall was the grey-haired chief of North Korea's powerful, million-strong army, O Jin-U.

But the junior Kim — short, seemingly unsure and unsmiling in sharp contrast to the bluff, ebullient figure of his father — was absent from the tumultuous funeral motorcade through the capital, Pyongyang watchers in Seoul said, adding that he had stayed in his father's office.

Kim died July 8 at 82 of what the government said was a heart attack. He ruled for four decades with an extreme cult of personality. Kim's actual hour-long funeral ceremony was shrouded in secrecy as was the final destination of the afternoon procession.

"Nobody knows where the body was taken," said one diplomat in Pyongyang contacted by telephone from Tokyo.

The funeral following more than a week of frenzied mourning, during which millions of North Koreans bowed to statues of Kim that are dotted throughout the country.

Beer was withdrawn from sale, and billiards, a favourite northern pastime, was banned during the mourning period, when all forms of entertainment were forbidden, said one foreign resident by phone to Beijing.

He said thousands of people were mobilised to scrub Pyongyang's streets and repaint road markings before the funeral.

On Wednesday, trains, ships and boats throughout North Korea were to sound their horns in respect to Kim. The country was also to have three minutes of silence at midday.

In a display of the extreme distrust that South Korea harbours against its communist rival, a government official here said Kim Il-Sung's coffin might have been empty.

"The black wood coffin

seems to be of the kind used for a simple funeral rite and there is a possibility that Kim's body might have remained encased in the glass coffin at Kumsusan Assembly Hall (Kim Il-Sung's palace),"

he said. The coffin was quoted as saying by Yonhap news agency.

"It would be difficult to preserve the body, although embalmed, while exposing it to the hot weather for five hours," the official said.

The coffin was returned to Kim's own palace after the solemn motorcade through the streets of the North Korean capital.

Local press reports, quoting government sources here, said the body would possibly be laid to rest at the palace until a Kim Il-Sung Memorial Hall, reportedly under construction for the past 10 years in the suburbs of Pyongyang, is completed.

Diplomats in Pyongyang said many in the huge weeping crowd in the streets had come from the suburbs and provinces and appeared to

have spent the night waiting for the funeral.

Diplomats themselves had been unaware of the details of the funeral until the last moment. Nigerian Ambassador O.A. Ashiru said it appeared certain that Kim Jong-Il, now 52, would succeed Kim Il-Sung in the first dynastic succession in the history of communism.

"I think definitely Marshal Kim Jong-Il will succeed as president of DPRK (North Korea). I think everything is calm. There's no apprehension," Mr. Ashiru told CNN.

The North's party newspaper Rodong Sinmun added to Pyongyang Radio accolades hailing the younger Kim as "the great patriarch," calling him the "illustrious leader of our party."

The titles were heaped on Kim Jong-Il by the official media despite the lack of any official confirmation that he has been elected to the two key posts held by his father — those of president and party leader.

COLUMN

Mandela goes to work on birthday

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — President Nelson Mandela spent his 76th birthday attending to party business — a meeting with the leadership of his African National Congress and a celebration by his staff. Apparently recovered from an eye operation last week, Mr. Mandela also met with labour leader Sam Shilowa to discuss a spate of strikes since the ANC-led government took power two months ago. More than 15,000 workers at a national supermarket chain were expected to strike Tuesday, expanding a wage protest that sparked clashes Wednesday in Johannesburg. After the lunchtime meeting, Mr. Mandela and Mr. Shilowa said further talks would take place on new labour legislation, but they provided few details. Both urged restraint by police and strikers. The birthday party, held in a conference room at the state union buildings in Pretoria, followed Mr. Mandela's regular Monday meeting with the ANC's National Working Committee and the Shilowa talks. About 60 members of his staff — from Chief of Staff James Gwede to office workers and custodians — sang "happy birthday to you" and "for he's a jolly good fellow" to the beaming president, who praised them as a symbol of unification in South Africa. "Many people who have seen how we work together could not believe that we come from a society so divided for many years," Mandela said before blowing out 76 candles on a cake in the form of the new South African flag.

63-year-old women gives birth

ROME (AFP) — Donatella Corte, 63, became the oldest woman in the world to give birth Monday when her son was born by caesarian section. The infant was conceived through artificial insemination with the help of controversial gynecologist Severino Antinori who also delivered the baby. "Today, it's a 20-year-old woman who gave birth," he said, meaning that his patient was as well as could be. Mrs. Della Corte was implanted with an egg given by a young Italian which was artificially inseminated with sperm from Della Corte's 65-year-old husband, Dr. Antinori said that a caesarian delivery had been recommended because Mrs. Della Corte had had one to deliver her only other child, a boy who died when he was 17. Dr. Antinori, who has already helped a 62-year-old Sicilian woman and a wealthy 59-year-old Briton to have babies, and claims to have helped more than 30 menopause women aged over 50 have babies, made no other comments. Reliable sources said the doctor and his patient had signed exclusive \$250,000 contracts with U.S. and German weeklies to tell their story. Half the money would go to the new mother, the rest to research. Mrs. Della Corte wanted a baby after her only son died in a motorbike accident when he was 17. News that she was pregnant had caused deep divisions in the medical world both in Italy and abroad.

Woman who snatched baby is pregnant — papers

LONDON (R) — A 22-year-old British woman accused of snatching an hours-old baby, prompting a huge outcry and nationwide search, is herself four months pregnant. Her father, Eric Kelley, was quoted by newspapers Tuesday as saying his daughter Julie, who has been charged with kidnapping newborn Abbie Homphries on July 1, could not wait for her own child to be born. "She must have been so desperate to have a baby that the remaining five months seemed like a lifetime so she decided to take someone else's baby," Mr. Kelley said. "She saw the baby's big blue eyes and couldn't resist it." Police reunited Abbie with her parents Saturday in Nottingham, central England, after raiding a house near the hospital following a telephone tip-off.